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CRITICAL OBSERVATIONS
AND REMARKS,
ON
A STABLE DIRECTORY;
OR
Modern System of FARRIERY.

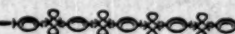



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CRITICAL
Observations and Remarks,
ON
A STABLE DIRECTORY;
OR,
Modern SYSTEM OF FARRIERY,
of W. TAPLIN, Surgeon:
Addressed to the AUTHOR,
In a Series of LETTERS;
In which are pointed out His ERRORS and Ridiculous ABSURDITIES.
With EXPLANATIONS, and DEFINITIONS of All the
Diseases incident to the
H O R S E,

And the Modes of CURE, as Selected from the best Authors;
To which are Added,
Several PRESCRIPTIONS, never before published,
not only for the use of the Brute, but Human Species.

——
 *He that unjustly abuseth ought to be abused.* 
——

By A. G. SINCLAIR, M. D.
Author of the CRITIC PHILOSOPHER,—ARS MEDICINÆ,
Comparative SYSTEM of ANATOMY, &c.

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L O N D O N:
Printed for the Author, and may be had at No. 6, Cleveland-Row, St. James's.

1792.

To the R E A D E R.

TRUTH partakes so much of the DIVINE ESSENCE, that from the earliest ages of the world, down to the present hour, the Good have made her their study, and employed a principal part of their time to find her out.---All the Earth calleth upon TRUTH, and the HEAVENS blest her ; for with HER there is nothing wicked or unjust. She endureth for ever, because she doth that which is right. She is the honor and glory of nations, and in her dwell harmony and consolation.


In the dark ages of sophistification, error and superstition, TRUTH the principal attribute of the DEITY, hath been deemed a libel, and for declaring Her, the announcer has frequently been dragged to a prison, and loaded with other infamous and degrading punishments: ---but such an infernal age (we hope for Truth's sake) is now no more. In this our enlightened day, TRUTH sits upon her throne, as MAJESTY triumphant, under a more sacred canopy, than that of the instruments of persecution, tyranny, and oppression !!!

It remains now for me to assign reasons for publishing my Remarks and Observations on Mr. *Taplin's Stable Directory*. It originated
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at the particular request and desire of a Gentleman, whose Ancestors derived much benefit from the skill and medical abilities of the late learned and ingenious Dr. *Bracken*, who possessed many virtues, added to the accomplishments of the scholar and the gentleman.

In compiling the following pages, I acknowledge myself greatly indebted to Mr. *P—*, who is thoroughly conversant in the Veterinary Science, and who first pointed out to me several of Mr. *T-----*'s absurdities.

That the *Stable Directory* is replete with scurrilous abuse no one who has read it, will, I believe deny ; and it is a duty incumbent upon every liberal man, to hold up the calumniator to the mirror of Truth, in order that the vile and unjust aspersions, which he would wantonly throw upon others, may recoil upon himself.

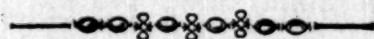
 The Words printed in *Italics*, are taken from Mr. Taplin's own Work, and the *Figures* in the Margin refer to the Pages of the *Stable Directory*, where the words or sentences are to be found.

CRITICAL

CRITICAL OBSERVATIONS

AND

REMARKS, &c.



LETTER I.

MARCH, 1792.

SIR,

I HAVE impartially read a production of yours, bearing the Title of the “ *Gentleman’s Stable Directory, or Modern System of Farriery* :” And as its Title expresses, so is the Body of the Work, replete with *scurrilous Abuse, interspersed with occasional references to the dangerous, and almost obsolete practice of Gibson, Bracken, Bartlett, Osmer, and others*,---So you say.

I told you sometime since, that to correct the gross Vices, or Errors, which lead us to do injury either to the human, or brute Creation, is not only the province of morality, but a Lesson inculcated in the most ordinary Education : I also hinted at your *numerous, accumulating, gratifying, decisive, personal and equestrian engagements*, which no doubt are now much more numerous, and accumulating than they were at that period !

You,

You, on your part, published, in the *Racing Calendar* of the 27th of October last, that you had observed in the previous *Calendar*, an Advertisement replete with '*ignorance, ill-manners, and scurrility, evidently intended to excite a reply, that might promote the sale of a paltry Publication:*' I believe these are your very Words, which may easily be refuted by a perusal of the said Advertisement, wherein I cannot see either ignorance, ill-manners or scurrility, unless it be the affair of *Yoursel and Jerry*, which I shall literally transcribe and comment upon, when I come to the 40th page of your 2d Vol.

It is not my wish to enter into a *menstrual criticism* of your System of Farriery, and I declare to you by *manual assurance*, that there will be no real or ideal indication to the *personality* of attack, although my observations and remarks are published through the *medium* of the *press*.

Allow me to make use of the qualities---manual, menstrual, accumulating, animadverting, enumerating, degenerating, &c. in imitation of the verbose sublimity, and copious elegance of your diction, as being words of your own selection; and which with other flourishing, dictatorial sentimental periods, are printed in Italics by way of pre-eminence in this work; because I think it noble to imitate your style, which borders so closely upon the Heroic, that I fancy it would puzzle the first orators and grammarians of the age, to solve, develope, unravel or recount, whether your '*Gentleman's Stable Directory*' is meant to be an Epic Poem, or rhapsodic production founded on Fable, or Romance; on the Tale of a Tub, or on the History of the Giants fishing for gudgeons in the Greenland Seas.

This wonderful Production of yours did not fall into my hands 'till some time in August last, and I must confess, that it made me laugh so heartily, that I thought with Gregory in the *Mock Doctor*, as related in page 5 of your first Vol. that the College had made or intended to make some strange and wonderful metamorphose of you, equal to that of altering or changing the heart from the left side to the right.

I have

I have not the pleasure of knowing either your person or private character, nor is it necessary, as I shall confine myself solely to the work before me, and of which you acknowledge yourself the author: And before I go further, I venture to affirm, with as much *delicacy and liberality, as the nature of the case will admit*, that you are as shallow a plagiarist, as *ever disgraced a candidate for critical dissection*, or as any one of the rustic sons of Vulcan mentioned in page 13 of your preface; and *with the Thunder of whose ignorance almost every village resounds*.---What you mean by the thunder of ignorance resounding in villages I am at a loss to guess, except you mean to convey an *oblique hint* at a Blacksmith's hammer in beating a Shoe upon the Anvil, for the preservation of one of your Horses from Foundering.

My avocations in life, and my studies, have rendered it impossible for me, to enter into all the minutiae respecting the Disorders fortuitous to the Brute, as well as those of the human species; nevertheless I flatter myself, that I am so far acquainted with the maladies incident to the Horse, and the proper Treatment of that noble Animal, that I can with facility distinguish between truth and falsehood, and ignorance and common sense: 'Tis true, *Metropolitan Jockies, juvenile Sportsmen, and inexperienced purchasers*, will not derive much information from the remarks I am about to make on your System of Farriery, however *the pleasing incense to literary vanity will be hebdomadally increased by constantly accumulating, gratifying encomiums*.

As you declare yourself such a complete master of *Horsemanlike qualities and equestrian Subjects*, I am sorry that you seem to enjoy such a particular satisfaction and pleasure, in upbraiding and finding fault with others for the very errors you yourself are guilty of.---This is alas! too generally the case; for I have always observed, that he who is most apt to find fault, is generally most culpable and guilty of the very crimes, he wishes to throw on the shoulders of others, because in general, man supposes, his neighbour a greater rogue than himself.---But there can be no better criterion for a man's conduct, than the monitor of his own breast;

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and

8. and to YOU it must be *no indifferent consolation, without the least intentional gratification of your vanity, to say, that the reader will afford you one congratulatory compliment, beyond the power of sophistry to confute, or criticism to condemn.*

In page 3, you speak of a *compounder of prescriptions*, who lives in a Groom's pocket, which is also stuffed with the *Quintessence of Stupidity*. Do you mean *paper or leather prescriptions*, and pray what kind of stuff, is the *Quintessence of Stupidity*?--- Is it *purgative, restraining, cordial, cooling, mercurial, antimonial, diuretic*, or *omnium gatherum*? Heads and pockets, legs and feet, are jumbled together by you, just like Scotch geese and turkies, ducks and wild fowl in the famous picture of the Deluge.

In page the 4th you advert to the Treatment of the HUMAN SPECIES, in the time of that Luminary as you term him, the famous SYDENHAM, and you add, *that he was so much the celebrated Favourite of his day, it was almost supposed, that he could do no wrong,—It being then a common practice of his to order boldly, Thirty ounces of blood to be taken from the Arm of a Man, without fear of Murder or danger of Punishment!* And you further go on and say, *This is not altogether likely to create wonder, when we recollect that there is no Law existing to hang a Physician for error in Judgment.*

Can it be for a moment supposed, that such absurdity should ever drop from the pen of the Author of the GENTLEMAN'S STABLE DIRECTORY? Sure, before you drew such a conclusion, you must have believed SYDENHAM to have been an illiterate rogue, or worse than a murderer in cool blood: and what is still more horrid, you do not seem in the least astonished at his conduct, *Because there is no Law existing to hang a Physician!* Let me ask you seriously and upon your honor, if ever you heard any body mention, or if ever you read of the death of any of SYDENHAM'S Patients from his ignorance in ordering PHLEBOTOMY? Doubtless he understood the practice of his times, equally as well as you *suppose yourself, in your times, to understand Farriery*—I mean the practice of Physic: for I will prove that Disorders vary according to the diet and manner of living

living, as do the Constitutions of the HUMAN RACE. For about a century ago, which is only a small space of time, men lived more in friendship with the laws, rules, dictates and requisites of nature than at present: Their wants were more easily supplied, and their natural cravings, sooner satisfied mostly by the productions of their own fields and gardens: Their blood was rich and plentiful, from the time of *puberty* to the *age of fifty*—being between 18 and 24 pounds in weight, consequently, the loss of 30 ounces in certain inflammatory cases, could not injure the patient, so much as the loss of sixteen ounces in the present day; since the whole mass of the fluids is corrupted with the contagion of *Venerical affections*, and the effects of luxury, added to complaints of the most malignant and dangerous nature.

We need not much wonder at the practice of the ancients, being different from that of the moderns, if we would only reflect upon their manner of living, which was as different from ours, as SUMMER from WINTER.—LUXURY introduces new disorders, and the same malady which may be easily cured in a FATHER, may prove fatal to the *Child*! — Nay, the same disease requires different treatment in different countries, therefore, it is highly absurd to ridicule our predecessors, for doubtless had we lived in their day, we would have agreed with them.— It would border upon Folly to laugh at the people's dress in the time of QUEEN ANN, as doubtless, our manners and habits would appear as odd to them, as theirs would to us, could we at this time associate.

Man is a changeable creature, he alters his constitution by changing his diet, and he conceives new opinions in politics and religion, according to the state of his body, which acts upon his mind. One day he is sullen, another gay, and a third severe. What he wishes for, he never obtains, because there is no end to his wishes.— I am sorry to say, *he is a fool from his birth, to his death*, because he employs his first hours to make his last miserable. His opinions are

vain, and his happiness imaginary, and what he desires one day he loathes another. He knows nothing, and even has doubts with regard to his future existence, because he comprehends not how he came here, nor what he was before he came. HEAVEN has hid her secrets from his eye, doubtless for many good and wise purposes; therefore, what he believes in one nation he turns into ridicule in another, and is daily contriving schemes to involve himself in fresh difficulties. His mind is as subject to change, as his body is liable to corruption!—But to come more closely to the point.

In the time of BOERHAAVE who lived not many years since, the PREPARATIONS OF MEDICINE were different from what they are now, and consequently their effects must have been so upon the animal œconomy; therefore, he prescribed differently from what he would have done in our day. The Colleges of Edinburgh and London have changed the names of their medicines.—They have introduced some new ones, and rejected others, perhaps, of superior virtue. Every short space of time produces changes in man's constitution, enervates the *Human Race*, and ever will, while irregularity and dissipation are the ruling passions of the mind. Therefore, Sir, do not be so weak as to suppose, for a single moment, that SYDENHAM acted imprudently in ordering *Thirty ounces of blood* to be taken from the arm of a man; for the generation of his day, were not so nervous in general, as those of our's.

In all ages men have been led away by the greatest absurdities, either from a too easy compliance with the opinion of others, or for some flighty conjecture which they have been determined obstinately to maintain, because they have once advanced it. This false pride has been the disturber of harmony, as well amongst DIVINES as PHILOSOPHERS, though these *feeble Sages* have most exclaimed against the imbecility of human nature.

Of all ambition that of being thought *learned*, has proved the greatest *ignis fatuus* of real knowledge ; for it has hurried on sometimes even men of abilities, to such lengths as must have made them blush at their own imprudent doctrine ; yet so great is the baseness and dread of being thought in the wrong, that even at the expence of truth and integrity, they have persisted in the support and defence of their errors.

In your work, you have abused most authors, who have written on the subject of Farriery, and from what you insinuate at the beginning, and indeed through the whole, YOU are the only person that knows any thing about the treatment of a Horse. Nay, further, we are led to understand that you have laid down an entire new infallible plan, and *entirely exploded the heterogenous and inconsistent farrago so long in use*, and you are only sorry, that *universal satisfaction is not to be expected, or approbation obtained*.—Poor Fellow !

In answer to the above, I beg leave however much it may irritate your feelings, or my own, to inform you, that there is nothing new, significant or pertinent in your system, except it be the likeness of yourself, fronting the Title-page which is now before me. PREGNANT with a beloved Son—SELF-CONCEIT, ready to be delivered of ABUSE and INGRAMMATICAL JARGON : It appears to me that your work, has been read, merely because no man, no not even yourself, ever has, or will understand it. I consider myself according to my public promise in duty bound, particularly after making this public declaration, to point out its errors, as far as my knowledge may assist or my judgment direct me.—But had you not wantonly and unjustly abused gentlemen of approved abilities, far superior to yourself, and who are now no more to answer for themselves, I should have taken no notice of the publication in question ; but, as it has so happened, I shall to the utmost of my power, vindicate their
injured

injured memories, from malevolent aspersions, infamy and obloquy, with which You have DARED to load their names and characters.—I shall therefore, fairly and candidly comment on the “Gentleman’s Stable Directory” just in a style similar to that in which it is penned.

- 5 In the 5th page you tell us, that GIBSON (who certainly wrote much better on the subject, meaning Farriery, than BRACKEN, according to your own assertions) *most courageously recommends the internal administration of most powerful poisons, corrosive sublimate, or red precipitate, as a matter of course; the proportion for a dose, being curiously ascertained by the sublime mensuration of a SILVER TWO-PENCE, as if a premium had been absolutely provided by an Act of Parliament, for the general extirpation of the breed of Horses, as destructive to the interests of Society.*

You will not deny the above to be your own words, and as GIBSON is dead, I shall literally and exactly transcribe what he said, and leave the illiberal stigma which you have unjustly thrown upon his memory and literary talents, to be obliterated and for ever done away from him, by a *Repetition of Transfer* in fixing the odium upon yourself, by humbly submitting his own words to a candid impartial and discerning public, as related in the 146th page of his Farrier’s Guide, where he says, “some exhibit corrosive sublimate or red precipitate, as much as will lie upon a *silver penny*, but as these medicines cannot be used internally, without great danger, especially, to brute creatures, who can never be brought to take such things as are proper to carry off the ill effects; they ought therefore, *not to be given in any case*, for although they may by virtue of their powerful efficacy succeed in some circumstances, where a horse happens to be robust and strong, yet when it is otherwise, if they are not the occasion of sudden disorders, they will lay the seeds of a bad constitution, and render a horse unserviceable in future.”

Plagiarism is properly defined LITERARY THEFT, or more mildly the adoption of the thoughts or works of another; but when a transcriber clandestinely

tinely stabs an author without cause, and upon the most false and unjust grounds, especially when he is not in time to answer for himself, I think I may rationally conclude such transcriber a very unfair character, acting beneath the *mean, low, paltry, beggarly, pitiful* and envious disposition of the *most notoriously infamous* Plagiary. ---Prejudice and ill-nature may give birth to falsehood and misrepresentation, but folly and vanity must be the children of ignorance and absurdity.

Who could for a single moment suppose, that YOU, one of the *first characters within the circle of the royal hunt and favour*, should without cause or just grounds vilify and defame a deceased brother Sportsman ! When Sportsmen (as stated in your preface page 8) *the propitious omen of whose patronage not only reflects rays of additional honour, but whose judgment, equestrian knowledge, and practical experience, jointly establish* a CRITERION of EQUITY, (and I may add truth) *that will ever render the author, meaning yourself, invulnerable to the barbed and envenomed arrows of hebdomadal or MENSTRUAL CRITICISM !*---The word MENSTRUAL is perhaps only applicable to the CATAMENIA of the fair sex, notwithstanding a certain author uses it in a different sense.

7 Permit me to address you nearly in your own words, by recapitulating, *That the task of criticism must at all times be an unpleasant performance, but much more particularly upon the present occasion, as it will be absolutely impossible for me, to discharge my duty to an IMPOSED UPON PUBLIC (with necessary precision and impartiality) without encountering by this decision the pique and resentment of YOURSELF, who are interested in the fate or sale of such publication, and its effects upon the multitude. However, the predicament I now stand in, compels me to proceed to a thorough explanation of your aphorisms, feeling myself pledged by a public promise in the RACING CALENDAR of November 1791, not only to investigate, make clear, and endeavor to explode the cruelties of ancient practice, but to point out the equal danger of MODERN COMPOSITION even in its infancy; more particularly when ushered into the world by such high sounding Authority as YOU Mr. T— who may give it temporary weight with unthinking, injudicious readers or experimental adventurers.*

What

8 What you mean by *experimental adventurers*, is more than I can tell, but *previous to further animadversion upon this elaborate display of words and sentences, (which is a difficult task for a Scotchman to explain the English of) I shall without the least intentional gratification of my own vanity, offer to the present and past reader one congratulatory fact, beyond the power of sophistry to confute, or criticism to condemn. viz. Amidst the paltry productions that have been obtruded upon the public under various titles, I say, that your STABLE DIRECTORY is only a servile imitation, or wretched mutilation of what have gone before: And it is a most flattering circumstance to me, and no indifferent consolation to the PUBLIC, that this work will ever support itself upon the basis of your's, and not on its own origin.*

A good Irishism, you know, Sir, will sometimes create a good laugh, because the originality of it is always *founded upon the basis of its own origin.* This I hope will totally exculpate me from plagiarism, which you have so frequently committed, although you declare, the *exact reverse.*

The studious Reader will be most seriously disappointed, if he expects to find in the pages of your STABLE DIRECTORY, a liberal imitation of Truth, or a repetition of good Sense with Anatomical Structure, &c. on the contrary, he will find a dangerous combination of destructive nonsense, heterogeneously blended, and cruelly applied.

9 I am a real, and not a nominal PHYSICIAN in Buckram, although I am suspicious you are a SURGEON in CANVASS.—I am not truly unfortunate in reading your work alluded to, but the *magnitude and almost unlimited Number of your mild purging Balls, stronger purging Balls, fever Balls, alterative Powders, pectoral Cordials, blistering Ointments, &c. introduced by way of Advertisement at the end of your FIRST VOLUME, sufficiently demonstrate the dangerous consequences of them, to those who are unfortunately obliged to make a perusal of them, but still more so, to those, who more unfortunately fall into the practice of them.*

- 10 *It is impossible without time and room to innumerate, even though there is a most predominant wish, the unaccountable absurdities and astonishing proofs of the ignorance you display, particularly in the monstrous prodigy of modern Instruction, but as it would not rescue any class of mankind from the rapacity of literary Imposition, I should become the dupe of specious plausibility to attempt it.*

I have taken the Opinions of some of the FACULTY, and I have also looked over several of your Recipes, but as they can afford little information or amusement, being simple copies of illiterate prescriptions, although there ARE a variety of them introduced, that would in a very few hours inevitably destroy the subject from every possibility of future relief, pleasure or quietude.—I shall content myself with one assurance to the Public, that the recipes already promulgated in your trifling production, are only prolongations of numerous and different promulgations, of what have gone before.

- 11 At page 11, you take notice of TEN MINUTES ADVICE, the POCKET FARRIER, HENRY BRACKEN, *Medicinæ Doctor, his Diploma*, a TALE OF A TUB, &c. All of which you throw into a wash-hand Basin, and one of the largest too, that ever a candidate after critical dissection washed his hands in. I do not introduce this by way of copying THE TALE OF A TUB, in every page foreign to the matter in question, merely for the purpose of swelling this work to a size, that may contribute to its disgrace; reserving to myself one consolation,—if it does not become a WHITE SWELLING, neither pique nor prejudice shall make it become a BLACK ONE, nor condemn it for its prolixity. I will not take upon me to say, that it shall contain wonderful digressions, astonishing, prolix, tedious, high low, and middle sized Tales, or catch penny shifts; No, no, sooner than this, an oblique hint shall condescend by coincidence of sentiment to take place of medical invention and sublimity of style!

- 12 As to shape, make, figure, qualifications, turf, field, road, hedge, ditch, &c. let every man please himself as I suppose he would, in one instance, by taking the shortest road over HEDGE, DITCH, &c. but how a Horse is distin-

guished from an Afs, you have not told us, only left us to conclude that for one HORSE, there are *twenty* ASSES to be met with, some with *full Eyes*, some with *small Ears*, some with *deep Chests*, some with *close Fillets*, some with *short Backs*, some with *strong Pasterns*, some with *sound Hoofs*.—This is the language of your *juvenile Devotees to Diana*, who have just escaped the *tender anxiety of Mamma*, or the *more successful attention of Tutor*, who live in the *enlightened stage of refinement*, and whose *qualifications constitute an universal combination of good points*. To be sure, *Men attend the Repository, fair Market or Sale*, with your book in their hand, by way of *remembrancer*, to bring to their recollection, *the well worn backs of ETON, OXFORD, and CAMBRIDGE*, that they may *animadvert upon Splents, Spavins, Windgalls and Strains*. I am not certain, but this may be *too concise for the magnitude of the subject*, as I am very happy to be told, that *the young and inexperienced become Inquirers more from the motive of Information than Amusement*, as I always understood the contrary; for I am of opinion, that young persons do not delight so much in information as in amusement.

13 *As juvenile Adventurers in the equestrian Field of Fortune, are daily becoming*
dupes to the various traps of imposition, eternally open to plunder the unwary, I
 14 *would advise you to be on your guard, least some trap should lay hold of and*
plunder you, and prevent you from constituting the very necessary conviction of age
 15 *and distinction, between blemishes and defects in general, doubtfully implied, and to*
ascertain the veracity of which technical phraseology, much nicety of discrimination
appertains.

Dr. Johnson the renowned Lexicographer, never took half the pains you have done, to explain the monosyllable *sound*, which every child at school understands. Some sounds to be sure are disagreeable, some sounds are high, and some sounds are low; and some sounds are *in wind*: But according to You, *sound* conveys an *honorable unequivocal* signification, *without exception or ambiguity to fight or action*, but by the *impositions of grooms, dealers, black legs, and*
jobbing

jobbing itinerants, it has run the gauntlet of deception, and requires further animadversion.—So much for the signification of the monosyllable sound.

16 *A man favoured by fortune, and sanctioned by situation has precaution to prevent, probably a palpable repentance; by dealing with an honest man as with a rogue, and he begins his inspection with care, caution, judgment and circumspection, accurately ascertaining the shape, make, figure, bone and strength, without trick or deception, by riding the Horse !*

17 *The young and inexperienced purchaser takes splents for spavins, ringbones for windgalls, quitters for cracks, starting for restiveness, bad action for lameness; and instead of proceeding minutely and necessarily to the examination of the state of the legs, he considers corns no additional defect, and without descending lastly to the feet, he willingly sacrifices the whole at the shrine of figure and fashion, —He mounts horse, and away he gallops !—Very astonishingly !*

18 With regard to your description of a horse as laid down in this page, I will take upon me to affirm that it is imperfect. I flatter myself to give a more just description of that noble animal, when most perfectly formed by nature, but at present I shall describe such a horse, as I think would carry you and your STABLE DIRECTORY, over the BEACON COURSE at NEWMARKET, without being distanced, as might happen if over the course at ASCOT. *To constitute that uniformity, the head and ears should both be large and long, with a very small nostril and eye; a short neck speedily rising from the withers; forming what is generally termed a fine back hand, having no depth from thence to the point of the breast, which being narrow affords ample proof of strength, as does the necessary INCLINATION of the shoulder or blade-bone to the point of the withers another of speed. This combination forms a well-made horse before behind. It is therefore superfluous, and nugatory to add, that the legs, tail, fetlock and pastern joints should be long, strong, thick and short.*

19 *These instructions respecting shape, make, size, bone, blood, strength, fashion and figure, will with few exceptions, enable you to distinguish between a good goer and a bad one; and also between a horse and an ass; which to do, palpably requires one perfectly adequate to the arduous task of discrimination!*

20 *When every idea of perfection is buried in the spirit of personal opposition by the political smacks of a whip, the loquacity of an orator, added to the fascinating flourish of a hammer; then shall YOU find Yourself in the very centre of Chesterfield's sink of iniquity; and even were you gifted with the eyes of Argus, you would find your opponents too numerous for you to prevent a bridle being put upon your tongue, and a padlock upon your pocket:—As to a BRIDLE on your tongue I believe it might be of service, and if there was a padlock on your pocket, I am convinced it would be the means of preventing you, either from paying a substantial tax of iniquity, or buying an unsound horse, or obtaining a capital blank in any of the State Lotteries!*

There is no consolation, (if I understand you right) when a man is *duped*, but the *law of retaliation by a repetition of transfer*. I would challenge any grammarian to explain your meaning here, were I not well convinced you did not understand it yourself; therefore, it would be *giving all parties trouble to dwell longer upon it*, particularly as a *trading voyage to the Metropolis* might be the consequence, in order to settle the meaning of *transfer* and *retaliation*: Besides, I do not know of any vessel sufficient to hold your indolent Grooms, Ostlers, Riders, &c. except the LAND FRIGATE; and I am informed, that that Ship has never made many voyages without being drawn by *custom and the full force of fashion*, with the aid of Horses of TAPLINIAN, *shape, make, figure, bone, blood and strength*, which have their *stable comforts* instantly striking the eye of an experimental observer, taking an occasional survey.

24 You, my very worthy and learned friend Mr. Taplin, predecessor of those who may live after you! one more guilty of digressions than any of your own predecessors, not born to carry a *Scotchman's Pack*, or to draw a comparison

parifon between its weight and that of a perfon of *Sixteen Stone*, although you may entertain a *mare with Ale and Rosemary*, or break her back without knowing *the rational idea of your own corpulence and circumference*, I would advife you to be the more careful and circumspect in adapting the ftrength of your horfe to your own weight, for fhould you fix upon a horfe of too much
 24 *size, figure, fhape, fafhion, form, bone, blood and ftrength*; and too much *crippled* by being *lame, blind, reftive, broken winded, splented, fpavined, glandered, and wind-galled* which may occafion too much tripping, flipping, fliding, ftumbling and falling, whereby your feelings might become too much irritated, incensed, enraged, angered and provoked for want of *exerting your judgment for the procuration of fuch purchafe that might prove moft likely to become adequate to your intentional purpofes*, for the *universality of your genius in temper, difpofition, alacrity, agility, fear and fortitude*, may otherwife palpably occafionally caufe your having *wry faces*, by your *lofing of leather* which may prevent you from *discanting largely upon the apparatus of bits, bridles, faddles, &c.* or entering into every *minutiae* thereof, which then *would not only be derogatory and degrading to experimental knowledge but abfolutely smuggling, and running away with a fubject!*

25 Refpecting the anatomical ftructure of a horfe, we fhall endeavour to convince you, that you know nothing of the matter, altho' we believe that previous to your crediting this affertion, it will be abfolutely neceffary compleatly to ANATOMIZE YOURSELF, which when done, will clearly *demonftrate*, as was obferved before, that your *heart is changed from one fide to the other*, and that the *capacities of your folids are more enlarged* notwithstanding your *fluids are ftill encreasing*; and although *the operative part does not come within the purpofe of*
 26 *your plan, yet from the feverity of circumftances and fuperintendence of fubmitting to treatment*, you may be enabled to *prefcribe for yourfelf in all emergencies*; notwithstanding *the minute investigation and accurate explanation of GIBSON and SNAPE, who have left no room for additional enlargement to fucceeding writers.*

26 Much multifarious matter has not been constantly introduced by you, relative to the age of a Horse, as you acknowledge it a fact, each sign is doubtful and liable to deception, by the various arts and designs of the Dealers, who engrave, burn, extract and beat out some teeth, and by artificially marking some others superficially, make the Horse of any seeming age the most applicable; and you say, these faults, blemishes, or defects, cannot easily be discovered, but by Grooms or Judges: And you likewise say, there is no matter in a Horse requiring a nicer discrimination in Judgment, having absolutely seen two Men of Abilities or Experience on the opposite sides of a Horse, by exchanging sides, have exchanged their opinions, by agreeing, that a Horse was coming a Year older on one Side than the other. However you admit, that the longer the Teeth are, the narrower the under Jaw is towards its extremity; the more advanced in Years—the older the Horse must be.

Be it as it may, the age is so distinctly abstracted from, and unconnected with the description of disease, that you leave the subtle discussion to the decisive decision of the Stabularian Disputants, to discover, envelope, investigate, and find out, whether the Horse is one, or twenty-one; whether he is two, three, or three times three, as it in no wise materially concerns your province, treating of Cathartics, Diuretics, Diaphoretics and Emetics.

28 If you were to become a purchaser, at the present high price of sound flesh and fashionable horses, would you proportion the price to such deficiencies as times and circumstances might render unavoidable? Surely you would, for young adventurers are only guilty, and would much rather ride in a Mail Coach of Palmerian Memory, than make pecuniary allowances for advanced Age, broken Wind, bad Eyes, Spavins, Splents, and a long detail of incidental imperfections.—A concise hint, necessary circumspection, to gratify little personal ostentation in an external display of blood and fashion, cannot be amiss; since transient value, the object of admiration and possession, now becomes blown upon by laceration, being of no greater estimation than to be unrelentingly torn in pieces through vexation, by that most merciful and humane invention!

29 That too great attention cannot be paid to the qualities and quantities of aliment, destined for man or beast, I am fully of your opinion ; and as to cleanliness and exercise, (I mean a moderate share of the latter) nothing will more effectually contribute towards the cure and prevention of disorders, not only in ourselves, but also in the creatures over which we are made lords ; But I rather doubt whether every groom has taken *possession of so high a pitch of excellence, originating only in a laudable emulation (by a kind of sympathetic inspiration, or enthusiasm)* to render trifling Observations worthy the attention of Master or Man, for to produce the
 30 Horse ready for the turf, field, or road, requires various minutiae constituting a perfect state of Stable Discipline, and no diversity of opinions can be supported in contradiction, unless by fools and madmen, as experience that inevitable touchstone of Truth demonstrates, to an indisputable certainty.

31 Your comparisons are what the French call *outrê*, and I think that to prevent you becoming dull and heavy in the Stable, languid in action, sickly in coat, as also in BREECHES, foul in excrement, &c. you should be doomed to a course of purgatives, then diuretics, and lastly a tedious administration of alteratives, as sickly and unsound ! AND ALL FOR WHAT ? Why, because you compare a Horse eating *musty Hay*, to a Man eating, a Beef-Steak approaching putrefaction, and venture to assert that the feelings of the Man and Beast will not be dissimilar on the occasion ; that is, after sitting down with an excellent Appetite (after a more excellent Chace, with no Sauce but SPEED, and no GRAVY but Necessity !

Now in order that you may be shewn your error in this comparison, allow me to say, that there is as great a difference between the feelings of a man and a horse, as there is between YOU and a MARE. Every being presented to us, must appear in some form and under some surface, we find it terminated by certain absolute lines, which result from its organization ; Man differs from man in that he is not the same : AND I AFFIRM IN OPPOSITION TO ANY OPINION THAT MAY BE FORMED AGAINST ME, that what we find true, with respect to the beings which surround us, and particularly to all organized bodies, is still
 more

more undoubtedly true, with respect to human nature. Man's organization distinguishes him from all the rest of the creation ; and his physiognomy on the surface and outlines of his figure, infinitely exalts him above all the visible beings which exist and live around him ; but his natural appetite is very different from that of the Brute. He is born feeble and remains helpless for a considerable time, in order, I doubt not, to convince us, that we are dependant upon one another, and ought to do as we would wish to be done unto ; although alas, this seldom enters into the conduct or practice of any of us.

Human nature differs from every other part of the creation, in that it is more susceptible of pleasure, and consequently of pain : It is over all and yet is under itself ; because it acts contrary to its own rational instinct, very differently from that of the Horse.—Horses never entered into a Society, they never appointed Physicians, Surgeons or Farriers, neither do they sit in Judgment, or disguise themselves by impositious formalities.

Men see their errors, because they commit crimes, Horses do not, because they are not guilty.—Men eat, not only because they are hungry, but also because they lust for such and such meats ; but the Horse eats, merely because he is hungry.—The Horse is satisfied with pasturage, and a beverage from the brook to assist its digestion ; but man is never satisfied, because the more he knows of animal passion and gratification, the more he is desirous thereof.

Horses differ from Men, in that the former are prone and oblong, the latter erect and upright ; the latter build houses, the former are shut therein. Man cannot govern his own reins, the horse is governed both by bits and reins : Man knows his own strength, but the horse does not, otherwise he would not only exercise a knock-down argument, but by a palpable kick, exercise a knock-down blow, which I hope without *further animadversion*, and *ratiocination* thereupon, you must conclude as I do, *that the feelings of a Man and a Beast are* quite

quite dissimilar, as I shall conclude in a peremptory mode or manner, that it shall appear to you dictatorially decisive by a rectification in Judgment.

32 The word **CONDITION** in the phraseology of sweet and fragrant Hay, sound Corn, sound Beans, soft Water, and regular Feeds, is supposed to imply a state
33 of perfection in figure and appearance.—Fine in coat, firm in flesh, high in spirits, and fresh upon legs!—a most desirable state for a young horse, and readily expected, and naturally concluded. Whereas if an old horse, an immense degree of good fortune, through all his journies upon the turf, field or road, must have attended him.

33 To be blessed with good fortune is to fix a criterion for commencement, after a Summer's run, and the horse being taken up for committing a trespass, must to forbid such proceedings in future, be put upon a very moderate proportion of hay and corn, to prevent lameness, blemish, infirmity, or other obstacle, and so increase
34 gradually according to size, in order, particularly as a caution to the operator, against that slovenly infernal and contemptible practice of suffering indiscriminately (in respect to quantity and quality) the blood to fall upon the ground or dunghill, from the self-sufficient manner of the Farrier's consequential and never-failing mark of infallibility!

34. Bleeding or Phlebotomy, is not a disorder in itself, but is the cause of many, when wantonly or improperly used.—Formerly it was usual to bleed in almost every disease, even in putrid ones. The self-taught Apothecary and illiterate Perruquier, regularly waited on their patients, spring and autumn, and indiscriminately pushed the lancet into the arm or foot of every body, who were silly enough to suffer it.—Bleeding is certainly useful in some inflammatory cases, in which the powers of medicines are either baffled or known to be ineffectual; but I am convinced that neither the human or brute species ought to be bled except there is an absolute necessity for it. Unnecessary evacuations of any kind, cannot be the way to prevent diseases, but regular

diet and proper exercise, are the only safe means, and will much sooner bring Man or Beast into good order than repeated doses of physic, particularly when there is little or no apparent necessity for them.

Horses differ from men in various manners, and consequently the disorders with which they are attacked, but it does not appear that any one malady requires the lancet or phlebotomy, except those of an inflammatory nature, and although the horse may not appear sick, faintish, or affected in losing two, three four, or five pints of blood, yet I am of opinion that this happens because of his prone and horizontal posture which does not require so strong a systole or contraction of the heart, in order to throw the blood round the body, as it would if in a perpendicular situation; and this is plain, for a man will lose twice the quantity of blood lying upon a bed or couch, without being sick, than he can in an upright posture.

Bleeding even when required, ought to be performed sparingly, because it nourishes the life of its possessor, and I think that you are much more erroneous than ever you thought SYDENHAM, in ordering five pints to be taken from a Horse. You may have forgot that if a Scotchman reads your book, and follows your advice, he will most assuredly bleed his horse to death, as instead of taking five pounds, he would naturally go by his own measure, and take away about twenty pounds, nearly the whole quantity in an ordinary man, and which I suppose is about one half, if not more, of what a Horse contains: *but as we shall in the course of the work, have occasion to introduce* other remarks upon blood, its nature, &c. with the use of the other fluids in the animal œconomy, *it will be more convenient* at present to proceed to an examination of the ingredients which compose your *Cathartic Balls*, invented by yourself as you say, and superior to any thing in Bracken, Bartlet, Gibson, &c.—In the tenth edition of your *System of Farriery* the prescription for your purging Balls runs as follow:

36 *Take of Succotrine Aloes one Ounce; India Rhubarb two Drachms; Jalap and Cream of Tartar each one Drachm; Ginger in Powder two Scruples, Oil of Cloves and Aniseed, each twenty Drops: and Syrup of Buckthorn a sufficient Quantity to form the Ball.*

There is a second more strong, and so a *third*; and even a *fourth*, which last I am convinced will act too violently; but what appears to me more singular than any thing else, is, that you have copied Bracken, Bartlett, Gibson, &c. after abusing them, for there is not a single ingredient in the prescription, but what is in some of their works, as may be seen when compared with your own, Vid. Bartlett, pages 38, 39, 40, &c. for the cathartic balls as above mentioned.

To find fault is an easy task, but to abuse what we cannot better, shews an envious disposition with a narrowness of mind. It is a species of the meanest vanity bordering upon cowardice and jealousy; for no man of integrity and honor would presume to abuse or ridicule his benefactor:— However, Such has been your conduct in endeavouring first by the aid of all your literary powers, to hold BRACKEN, BARTLET, GIBSON and others, up to public scorn and contempt, by ranking them amongst the most ignorant and illiterate pretenders to veterinary knowledge. And in the second place, you have come the plagiarist over them, and culled the few merits which are in your book from their works, whilst at the time you are using every stratagem to make the Public believe, that the whole is the production of your own noll, or pericranium.

Mr. BARTLET very justly observes, that the succotrine aloes should always be preferred to the Barbadoes, or plantation aloes, though the latter may be given to robust strong horses, but even then should always be prepared with cream or salt of tartar, which by opening its parts, prevents its

adhesion to the coats of the stomach and bowels; from whence horrid gripings, and even death itself has often ensued.—He further, and with truth adds, that half an ounce of castile soap may be added to the cathartic ball, and given to a horse of a gross constitution.

In the course of this work we shall collect every prescription of note, that hath been written for the use of horses, and we shall make our comments upon the nature and qualities of each ingredient, and give our reasons why such and such things should be used in preference to others. And as all the medicines will be classed together, with the Disorders they cure, our readers will be at liberty to think and chuse for themselves, according to the nature of the malady and strength of the animal.

You have ordered medicines, but have neither told us the nature or qualities of them; therefore, remember in future that ginger is hot and pungent and penetrating; it strengthens the stomach and promotes appetite and digestion, and prevents putrefaction. Aloes are bitter and cathartic and anthelmintic, and are best employed in watery, cold and corpulent constitutions; they heat and dry the liver, occasion piles, &c. therefore persons or animals of a hot temperament, ought to use them sparingly.—The succotrine aloe is preferable for internal uses, and the hepatic for external, as the succotrine scarce contains one half of the resin or sulphurous part, but one-third more of the saline part, than is found in the hepatic.—Jalap in its natural state, is one of the best cathartics which we know of, for purifying the fluids and destroying gross sluggish humours.—Rhubarb is esteemed an excellent cathartic, and is proper in diarrhæas, to fortify the stomach, and to create an appetite. Cream of tartar is justly reputed a sweetner of the blood, and operates both as a cathartic and diuretic.

Perhaps

Perhaps every cathartic medicine ought to be exhibited by being guarded with some warm aromatic which may assist it in uniting and mixing with the circulation; this is the reason I should suppose that you have ordered *essential oil of cloves and aniseed in your balls*, although you do not seem to wish that we should know the reason, which possibly might be unknown to yourself.

What you mention respecting *scalded bran and oats, burning the horses tongues with hot mashes warm water & walking out for half an hour*, is all borrowed from Bartlet, as the reader may see in the second chapter of his Gentleman's Farriery, and in which he says that a horse is purged with difficulty, that the physic generally lies twenty four hours in the guts before it works; and that the tract of bowels it has to pass through, is above thirty yards, and lying horizontally, consequently resinous and other improper drugs may and often do, by their violent irritations occasion excessive gripings and cold sweats, shave off the very mucus or lining of the guts, and bring on inflammations, which often terminate in mortification and death:—I do not believe it is in your power to contradict this, either by *incidental observation or additional publication!*

I have said nothing of the diagridium mentioned as an ingredient in your *third cathartic ball*, because I am of Dr. Bracken's opinion which corresponds with Mr. Bartlett, viz. that the diagridium is a resinous substance called scammony roasted in a quince; but correct it as you may, it is still so resinous that small particles of it, are apt to stick in the folds of the stomach and guts and cause such vellications or convulsive twitchings, that the life of the animal is frequently endangered thereby; and how can it be otherwise, since by the rough operation of such resinous purges, the bowels become so irritated that in discharging their contents, the creature oftentimes purges off the very mucus, slimy liquor, or moisture (which covers their internal coat) deposited by nature, as a defence against any sharp irritating matter, which may pass through them.

Mr.

Mr. Bartlet rationally concludes, that it is a mistaken notion even to suppose, that if a proper prepared purge does not work to expectation, the horse will be injured by it; for though it may not pass by stool, its operation may be more efficacious as an alterative to purify the blood;—such medicines generally passing by urine, or other secretions.—This I affirm, as a Physician, because I am thoroughly convinced, that alteratives do more real good than any other medicine.

It should be a matter of very little consequence who orders or prepares the Draught, &c, if it be proper. A man may acquire knowledge in the cottage as well as in the College, but stupidity and ignorance are ever accompanied by impudence and effrontery that often *cut a figure in the fashion of fortune*, although every link of *contribution may discover no extent of penetration, or defensible qualification without a constitutional reformation*. However, as the management of Horses, during a course of Physic, is at present so well understood, little more
39 need be added on the subject, except in servile subjection to the illiterate pernicious,
41 ridiculous and contemptible opinion of warming water in the horse's belly.

It is becoming the dignity of the professors of medicine *thoroughly to investigate*, and if possible *to make clear* every part of the science of Physic, not only as far as it may be interesting to the human race, but also to the brute species.

The ancients distinguished their Physicians into rational, dogmatical, methodical, empirical, clinical, galenical, and spragyrical or chymical:—Rational Physicians were those who proceeded in a certain regular method, founded upon reason; deducing consequences therefrom, to particular causes. —Methodical Physicians were those who reduced the whole art of healing to a few common principles or appearances:—Dogmatical Physicians were those who laid down principles, and reasoned from those principles, and from experience:—Empirical Physicians were those who kept wholly to experience,
and

and excluded all use of reason in medicine :——Galénical Physicians are those who prescribed gentle, natural and ordinary medicines :——Clinical Physicians were such as visited their patients in bed, in order to examine their cases ; and were termed clinical, in opposition to the Empirics, who sold their medicines in the streets :——But in what class to rank you I am entirely at a loss ; for I do not think you are either spragyrical, dogmatical, or clinical : On the contrary if you are of any one class, it must be that of the IRRATIONAL and CONTRA-DICTORIAL.

In page 42 of your DIRECTORY, you (*I mean during the time of promoting condition*) say, that *a proper respect to the abilities of BARTLET, induces you to copy his prescription for a cooling purging drink, and you perfectly agree with him in declaring it to be cooling, easy and quick in operation, and greatly preferable, in all inflammatory cases, to any other purge, as it passes into the blood and also operates by urine.*

This cathartic is prepared from two ounces of senna, infused in a pint of boiling water two hours, with three drachms of salt of tartar : the liquor must be poured off and four ounces of Glauber's Salts, and two drachms of cream of tartar dissolved in it.

In inflammatory cases, this proves a most excellent medicine, and perhaps few, if any, can equal it, not only for destroying inflammatory disorders in cattle, but also in our own species, when properly proportioned to the difference of constitution ; for I affirm, that disorders whether in man or beast, are more similar than has been generally imagined.

The purgative quality of senna, resides in the mucilaginous or gummy juice of its herb : and the more it is divided, the less it gripes in its operation ; therefore, the addition of a little cinnamon water would add to its virtue in the above *cooling purging drink*, as it would prevent it from nauseating the stomach :——Tartar, says a certain ingenious author, has the juice of the grape for its father, fermentation for its mother, and the cask for its matrix.

Its

Its virtues are those of a mild, cooling, aperient laxative medicine, proving a gentle though an effectual purgative:—Glauber's Salts prove a mild and useful cathartic, aperient and diuretic, particularly when taken with the infusion of fenna.

After praising the above draught, I am suspicious for reasons you know not, you modestly tell us in the very next page! *that in justice, you would recommend a ball in preference to it.*—I should suppose, because you have some to vend; but least such construction should be put upon it, you begin to display your medical knowledge in the CICERONIAN STYLE; saying, where a cathartic is required to operate expeditiously or where *the horse by his rejecting powers compels a*
 43 *horse to regurgitate, by the act of regurgitation without any indication of instantaneous necessity, this drink may be admitted. As a mind perfectly, consistently and satisfactorily, may be prepared for information!*

When a medicine is given with an intention to operate speedily, POWDERS and LIQUIDS are preferable to PILLS or BALLS. And as all liquids quickly pass into the circulation, they should be so contrived as to possess no irritating quality, which is the case with the *Cooling Drink* just mentioned; therefore, you are egregiously mistaken in *advancing, that the joint qualities and force of the different ingredients of a liquid medicine being let loose at the same moment upon the internal*
 44 *coat of the stomach, may be productive of spasms, or very severe gripings or pains previous to the laxation of the hardened faeces in the intestines.*

It is evident to me that you know very little of the nature of medicine, or of its effects upon the animal system, for should a ball, or the stimulating powers of a drug, be covered with aromatic or carminative ingredients, they must be destroyed in a great measure before the dose can operate; besides every person of common sense knows that a fluid will dissolve a solid sooner and more effectually than a solid will, which must first become fluid by the liquid of the body, before it manifests its powers.

Medicine

Medicine popularly termed Physic, consists according to the immortal BOERHAAVE, in the knowledge of those things, by whose application life is either preserved sound and healthy, or, when disordered, is again restored to its pristine healthiness.—Galen defines it to be the art of preserving present health, and of retrieving it when lost; Hippocrates, the addition of what is wanting, and the retrenchment of what is redundant: and Herophilus defines it to be the knowledge of things good, indifferent or ill, with regard to health.

The injuries and vicissitudes of the air, the nature and qualities of foods, the violence of external bodies, the actions of life, and the fabric of the animal compages, must have rendered diseases almost as old as time itself.

A human body is a curious machine, and so is that of every creature through the whole creation; for the component and constituent parts of a horse, are subject to the same laws of motion, as those of a human body, and both these to the same laws by which the infinitely wise Being governs the universe. For both man and beast are composed of fluids and solids, which are governed by the laws of gravitation, impulse and reaction, and what changes are brought about in the animal œconomy, by the motion of matter, under the conduct of these laws, can no way be estimated so well as from the MATHEMATICS.

You have mathematically told us, *that you have relinquished every expectation* 44 *of finding a small band among farriers or grooms, and consequently you begin to disclaim your own idea; but before you do this altogether; which may prove injurious to you, I would advise you to use your own hand (it being very delicate according to report) and save yourself the trouble of procuring a large bag and pipe for the purpose of administering an enema, unless the rectum should be absolutely plugged up, so as to prevent the passing of the pipe for the injection, which when properly prepared, there is not the least doubt, but such lubrication and stimulus will remove all obstructions by advantageously*

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affording

affording the most happy consolation, for the destruction of that favourite diabolical long standing practice of raking, for the preparation of purgation.

45. The French, and indeed Foreigners in general, are apt to order lavemens as also bleeding in almost every disease; but I think that if a medicine be properly exhibited at first by the mouth, and in due quantity according to the strength of the subject, this mode of administering a lavement will be seldom required, although I must confess, that it will frequently remove bowel complaints when medicines taken otherwise will not.

To prepare the enema for a horse, you order camomile flowers, sweet fennel, and coriander seeds bruised, of each one ounce; caraway seeds half an ounce; boil the whole in two quarts of water, till reduced to three pints; then strain, and add for solution, while hot, of Epsom Salts two ounces; and when nearly cool enough to administer, add of olive oil, and tincture of fenna, commonly called Daffy's elixir, of each a quarter of a pint.

Camomile flowers are accounted carminative, aperient emollient, and in some degree anodyne:—they stand recommended in flatulent colics, for promoting the uterine purgations in spasmodic pains.—Sweet fennel is said to possess pungent, stomachic and carminative virtues; and so are coriander and caraway seeds:—Epsom Salts are cathartic and diuretic; and olive oil is emollient.—The tincture of fenna is carminative and cathartic.

Mr. Bartlett has given us forms of nutritive, emolient, restraining and cathartic enemæ; and I see nothing new or so highly to be extolled in your prescription, which by the bye, is no more of your own invention than the **CORDIAL RESTRINGENT BALL AND MASH**.—They are as follow.

Take mithridate one ounce, armenian bole, gum arabic, and prepared chalk (in fine powder) two drachms; syrup of diacodium quantity sufficient to make a ball.

Mithridate,

Mithridate, or the confection of Democrates, is a confused jumble of ingredients, and of which, no Chymist in Europe can tell the use:—Armenian bole is absorbent and astringent according to some:—Gum arabic is emollient and diuretic:—Chalk is an absorbent:—Ginger is pungent and diuretic; and the Syrup of Diacodium is somniferous.

The Restraining Mash contains Rice (2 Pounds) which is of a binding quality; Cinnamon bruised (half an ounce) which is pungently aromatic, possessing a small degree of astringency; with five quarts of water, reduced by boiling to the consistence of a mash: Then take out the cinnamon (it being tied up in a piece of linen) and stir in a quart of ground Oatmeal, and let it be placed in the manger, so that the horse may get at it, when of a proper warmth.

This restraining mash as it is termed, might even be placed before gentlemen of the North, particularly as there is ground oatmeal in it, which proves nutritious either for man or beast, and prevents many instances of penury.

But as I shall only (as before observed) take a cursory view of your prescriptions at present, reserving a considerable portion of this work for an accurate statement of them, with those of other authors, and also their effects and virtues when put into execution; let it suffice now only to remark, that Mr. BARTLET's method, which is greatly preferable to your's, shall be candidly and fairly examined into, and GIBSON's judicious observations, some of which you have copied, after malevolently traducing his memory, 47 from Grand-fire, to Grandson, by gradual succession, from generation to generation, without the least acquired degree of reformation or approbation, although you imagine that you 48 have faithfully observed and attended to experimental rejection by adequate, applicable, incontrovertible application to modern invention, by dividing and subdividing remedies by the introduction of a large proportion of extraneous matter, as a compliment to your pecuniary sensation and explanation of technical Terms.

C L A S S I.

49 Splents, Spavins, Wind-galls, Lameness, and Strains.

S P L E N T S;

*Of which various accounts have been given without any thing satisfactory (as to their origin or cure) particularly in your STABLE DI-
50 RECTORY, which upon a candid investigation of accumulated variety of opinions, amounts only to a verification of an observation, not long
51 since made, that the degree of estimation your system may be held in, should be considered in the nature of an EXCRESCENCE.*

YOU own that it is a ridiculous attempt to destroy an acknowledged apparent ossification, seated in a solid body under the integuments, without a destruction of the integuments, or a palpable injury to the component parts by taking one or other for the fact, as may appear a very natural and just conclusion; but you have not informed us what SPLENTS are, only you are sly enough to (allow an alternative) by first SUPPOSING, that the protuberance upon any part of the shank-bone, called a splent, is an enlargement of the periosteum, by
52 an original rupture of the small vessels, and the extravasated fluid collected, which become indurated by time. And in the next place you suppose with GIBSON, that a Splent is a callosity originally formed on the bone, and becoming ossified, constitutes a bony substance, seemingly a deformed part of the bone itself;
but

but all this Mr. T——, does not prove that YOU know any thing either of the nature or cause of a Splent, although you may possess *expectation without*
 52 *anxiety or difficulty, particularly in using frequent friction with your operative hand.*

The best definition of Splents, is in the works of SOLLEYSELL (translated from the French by Sir William Hope) and GIBSON. They both agree, and their descriptions are in substance as follow :

“ A Splent is a callous, hard, and insensible swelling or substance on the shank-bone. When there is but one, it is called a single Splent ; but when there is another opposite to it, it is termed a pegged or penned Splent. By examining the shank-bone of a horse after the flesh is scraped off, there appear two appendages growing to it, which are to be met with in all horses that are young, though the seam by which these bones are joined to the shank, is in some old horses, quite obliterate and worn out except in the middle. They resemble a bodkin, being broad at top, and narrow at bottom, and are joined to the shank by apposition, and fastened by a gummy matter not unlike glue.

Now if a young horse be pressed with any extraordinary weight towards his shoulders, before these bones are firmly cemented, especially when he goes down - hill with a burden or a heavy person upon his back, it bears so hard upon his fore-legs, that it causes these bony appendages to give way, and suffer a distortion ; and although the horse does not always grow lame from it immediately, yet it brings a redundancy of this glutinous matter, which ouzes from between the bones on the inside of the shank, where there is a little hollowness and hardness under the periosteum, like the gum which issues from a wounded tree, and is thus formed into a splent. But when the distortion is violent, or the horse of a tender, delicate make, the
 afflux

afflux of matter will be the greater, so that it ouzes through the opposite side also, and forms a pegged or thorough splent, which looks as if a wedge was struck quite through the bone; sometimes a double Splent is formed, which is called by the French a Fuzée; and this happens when there is a fresh afflux of matter upon a splent that is already begun, like the lays upon an icicle, by the running down of fresh water upon it.—This last sort causes a very great deformity, and is therefore easily perceivable.

Most of these swellings make their first appearance at some distance below the knee, where the cleft between the bones is the widest, which is very natural; and in some cases, but especially when they are of long continuance, they not only ascend to the knee, but go a good way down the shank, and sometimes backward to the main sinew."

Although you condemn GIBSON, I will venture to affirm, that there is not such an accurate definition of any disorder laid down in your work, as the description we have been now giving of the SPLENT that unpropitious omen of non-ejaculation from elucidation! Yet the empirical, the uncivilized, unsystematic, without *notwithstanding the variety of opinions inculcated, and*
 53 *instructions laid down to obtain a radical cure, it becomes a matter of doubt, whether a little deliberation, previous to rash execution, may not prove the most useful monitor of the two.*

GIBSON has *hinted* according to you, therefore, I shall also give a *hint*, by way of informing my readers, that the four ounces of the spirits of turpentine, with an equal quantity of the camphorated spirits of wine, and half an ounce of the oil of origanum, which you direct to be made into a liniment, and to be rubbed with a person's hand frequently, where the splent may be seated, is not of
 your

your own invention, but borrowed from others *who have gone before you.*—
Vid. Windgalls,—for the virtues of this Liniment.

BARTLET has very judiciously observed, “ that Splents on their first appearance, should be well bathed with vinegar, or old verjuice, which by strengthening the fibres, often put a stop to their growth : for the membrane covering, the bone, and not the bone itself, is here thickened : and in some constitutions purging, and afterwards diuretic drinks, will be a great means to remove the humidity or moisture about the limbs, which often gives rise to such excrescences, or at least contribute to their nourishment.— This natural and rational supposition, you declare *that it forms no part of your opinion*, which I am sorry to find to be always contrary to what is reasonable and just ; for to compare a *Splent in a horse*, to a *Corn or a Wart on*
55 *the feet or hands of the human species*, is a clear proof to me, that your dissertation is obscured, and your understanding *bewildered by the mist of ignorance and mask of mystery*, consequently you are ignorant, not only of the Nature and Cause of these Excrescences, but the mode of their removal or cure.

BARTLETT says, that the best way to treat Splents, is not to meddle with them, unless they are so large as to disfigure a horse, or are so situated as to endanger his growing lame ; and from this proper advice, you in your accustomed habit of plagiarism, declare, *that the best and most speedy*
53 *method will be immediate extirpation by longitudinal incision*, although you afterwards add, that it will *be most adviseable or at any rate most prudent, to let it*
54 *remain in its pacific state of inactivity, rather than provoke it to a certain degree of*
active

active virulence by premature application; and you further proceed to the reflection of a former observation, by an early course of friction with mild dissolvents and repellents, to effect total obliteration without the least loss of hair!

I shall now conclude this letter, which I would advise you attentively to peruse, in order that you may be properly prepared, to receive amusement as well as information from the next.

LETTER

L E T T E R II.

March, 1792.

S I R,

IN the preceding LETTER there are a few typographical errors, but that the like may not occur in future, I shall be more careful in superintending the Press.

S P A V I N S.

55 Of these there are two kinds, very distinctly explained by almost every Author on the subject, EXCEPT YOURSELF.

DR. BRACKEN has distinguished the *blood* from the *bone* Spavin, as have most other Authors who have written on the diseases incident to Horses; but as you have said nothing new on this subject, having borrowed from almost every writer, without possessing sufficient judgment or understanding properly to arrange your materials, we think that the *accumulated fluids may produce a preternatural enlargement* pliant to the touch, *by a just denomination in the seat of situation, by a frequent application of a topical embrocation, which according to the following prescription should attend Spavins in infancy.*

Take of strong white wine vinegar four ounces, camphorated spirits of wine three ounces, Extrañ of Goulard one ounce. Shake them well and put them into the elbow part of an old waistcoat sleeve, because by constant application, cases of short standing will submit to

F

their

their action upon the solids, to have their elasticity restored, by contracting their circumference and repelling the internal expanding fluid, reducing the vein to its natural original size;—— Or,

Take of cantharides in powder one drachm, olive oil two ounces.—Mix them together, and by rubbing gradually, let them be absorbed in the seat of disease, which by their immediate stimulus, the hair will be raised up, and become pen-feathered, during the efflux of serum in large proportion, leaving no scar or trace of external application, which is preferable to the long standing opinion of instrumental incision and extirpation, which might produce inflammation in the operation, that would require warm fomentation to accomplish cicatrization.

Vinegar is a vegetable acid, and possesses cooling, antiseptic and antipet-tilential qualities: Camphorated spirit is made of camphor and rectified spirit of wine, and may be applied externally in sprains. Extract of Goulard is a preparation of lead with vinegar, and when applied externally, it proves cooling and astringent. Cantharides, or the Spanish-fly reduced into a powder, and afterwards mixed with olive oil, and externally applied, acts as an immediate stimulus and blister.—The virtues of the tincture of cantharides are those of a diuretic, corroborant, and analeptic or restorative nature.

58 *Every degree of information, observation and experimental investigation, defines a bone spavin to be exactly behind, requiring the same drink, and the same food, as any other bone in so critical a situation; therefore, it becomes an object of concern and attention, to avoid*
59 *lameness, by the prevention of reduction or extirpation.*

Previous to the dismissal of this article, I shall for the accommodation of
59 those who have never seen the publication, pronounce the Gentleman's Stable Directory, a futile and paltry production; but I flatter myself, and am well persuaded, that the elaborate composition *has procured very few converts to the practice.*

A blood

A blood spavin is a dilatation or swelling of the principal vein of the inside of a horse's hough, and may be justly compared to the varix in men or the varicose swelling, where the blood in the vein turns into a kind of eddy, and forms such tumour.

The cure of a blood spavin, as Dr. Bracken very judiciously observes, is the same as that for an ANEURISM or dilatation of an artery; only one material thing must be observed, in which the tying up a vein and that of an artery, differs in an eminent degree; for the arterial blood circulates from larger into smaller vessels, but the venal blood from smaller to larger; so that if you tie a ligature about the master vein of the hough, without tying it also below, the tumour must necessarily encrease as the blood meets with resistance at the ligature; for the veins carry back to the heart the superabundant blood from the arteries: therefore, a vein must be tied below, and an artery above the hough, to cure a swelling or dilatation.

It may therefore be observed, that the cure of a blood spavin consists in dissecting the skin and muscular flesh of the vein, but so as not to cut any of the carnosus fibres transversely. Then pass a piece of strong silk well covered with bees'-wax both below and above the tumour, which is performed with a crooked needle not very sharp, with an eye large enough to let the thread leave it easily: And when the blood vessel is secured both above and below the swelling, cut it in two in the middle, and heal the wound with the salves, &c. as directed hereafter.

GIBSON says its cure is performed by taking up that part of the vein, where the tumour is formed, and then by healing it with proper digestives and bandage: And then he adds, with great propriety and truth, that some think it sufficient to tie a ligature about the swelling, and afterwards to make an aperture in the

vein, letting blood out until the swelling falls; after which the ligature is unbound and a restraining charge applied.—But this, adds our Author, very judiciously, is not so certain, especially when the spavin is formed under the great joint of the hough, and where the vein takes a winding round it; in which case it will be apt to grow again as soon as the bandage is removed: But a cold charge is very necessary all around the joint, when the vein is taken up, to prevent the swelling that must follow the operation.

The bone spavin is a hard bony excrescence, growing on the inside of the hough, not far from the elbow, and is generated of the matter which nourishes the bones and ligaments: Some horses are foaled with this imperfection, but it proceeds for the most part, from straining, while a horse is too young to bear violent fatigue.

You blame OSMER for ordering the hair to be cut off from the diseased part, which clearly demonstrates that you are not only unacquainted with the operative part of Surgery and Farriery, but also an utter stranger to regular, safe, and rational practice.

Suppose you (whom I should not suppose to be altogether an hairy animal) fractured a hairy part, would you not as a Surgeon agree with your brethren of the Faculty, to have the hair cut away, in order that the injury might lay open for inspection; therefore in the name of common sense, how could you blame OSMER for ordering the horse to be treated in a manner similar to that which he would have ordered, had your hairy scalp been in the like situation?

WINDGALLS

W I N D G A L L S

61 ARE these prominences having their situation on both sides of the tendons ; and what is very astonishing, they are much larger on some horses than others, though proportionally the same, which by perpetual action, are preternaturally extended by extension of fibres delicate, and the aggregate of which though minute, cause a trifling portion of serum or fluid extravasated, the exact system of principle that constitutes a cause, or a received notion generally thought intrusive or inapplicable, if introduced upon the subject of prevention, which will convey a stronger proof in the rider, than by any subsequent advice in the Stable of a Farrier.

Every man in the possession of a good horse, feels his superiority over him, who hath neither horse nor mare ; but this is sometimes temporary, and of a fleeting duration !—For to ruminate on this circumstance in the career of journey, feeling it proportionally the centrical point of every good, the utmost exertion will be regulated
63 by unsullied rectitude, which after a chase or journey will cause the finer feelings to jump into the enjoyment of possession and gratification, with the partner of his pleasure, and the companion of his labour, a beautiful beast, whose wants are equally numerous and necessary in the calls of appetite, as those of the most unnatural rider.

The frequent boasting of unfeeling PUPPIES, who ride forty miles in an hour
63 and a few minutes, with other equestrian exploits equally wonderful, after leaving the jaded object of their prosecution, to the affected diligence of drunken Ostlers.—This not only accounts for Windgalls, but also for a variety and long
64 list of diseases, which we proceed to expatiate on.

After

After *this digression*, I shall not add any thing upon the curious plaister, the wonderful arcanum of variety, because a *temporary completion* has been obtained by repellants, blistering, or perforation!—a repetition of ordinary work 65 has soon produced a repetition of defect!—It is however a consolation and no inconvenience, but the disagreeable effect upon the eye, and no inconsiderable one upon the pocket, which is much worse than upon the eye, that Windgalls are enlarged after severe work, but are reduced by exercise, constant friction, and substantial rubbing down.

65 This circumstance is mentioned only to corroborate the thesis advanced to establish an origin.—A total eradication is seldom experienced, but the most approved and rational method to obtain the desirable object of relief, can be effected only by rarefaction, repulsion and bandage,—But, to promote the intentional operation— Take

Oil of origanum, and spirits of turpentine, each half an ounce; camphorated spirits of wine one ounce.—Mix well together.—Origanum oil, or the oil of marjorum, Spirit of turpentine and camphorated spirit of wine, have been explained before. Vide Splent.

Windgalls are soft, yielding, flatulent tumours, or little bladders visible to the eye, and are full of a gelatinous or gluey matter; they are generally seated upon each side of the fetlock joint of either or both of the fore or hind legs, under the skin, between the finew and the bone.

The causes of Windgalls are various, but they generally proceed from strains, bruises, kicks, or strokes from other horses, similar accidents, or from standing in stalls, having too great a slope or descent.

L A M E N E S S

IS a subject of universality (because we are, I should suppose from this, all lame at times) arising from a variety of causes, never thought inapplicable to enumerate the most probable; exciting thereby a proper degree of investigation, by ascertaining to a certainty, the erroneous fixation on an improper part, from want of care, accuracy, and attention in examination, or inconsistent treatment, with its long train of inconveniences.

69 *Exclusive of Lameness, there are strains occasioned by blows or bruises upon particular parts; such as Splents, Spavins, Windgalls, Thrush, Ringbone, Quittor, and a numerous variety of additional causes, which have already, and will hereafter be explained under different heads: But Lameness from Shoeing COMES so immediately and properly under the inspection of the OPERATIVE FARRIER, that the least enlargement upon THOSE SUBJECTS HERE, might be very justly considered a matter of superfluity:—However, there is another kind of Lameness, termed the inhumanity of the owner, from general inattention. This ensures to a certainty the annual destruction from a description of universal debilitation, without rest or intermission, by a diurnal routine of slavery in bad roads, frost, snow, sultry heat, burning sands, and stony roads, without literal or relative consideration.*

70 *A Horse of spirit, bottom and emulation, has incredible fortitude in the extremity of fatigue, drudgery, and inhuman persecution; but should he want bottom, spirit, and intrepidity, he will have little animadversion for the purpose of explanation or comprehension, deserving trifling attention and reflection, as his tendons by perpetual extension and contraction, without the least portion of inaction, will be rendered totally inadequate to the tone and elasticity of motion and flexibility!*

71 **HARD WORK, WHIPCORD, and POVERTY** would render your legs full, round, inflamed and exceedingly painful, inadequate by a constant repetition of the cause, to the rapidity of motion and action, in perpetual drudgery; and then you would be brought to a **STAND STILL**, and die with the wretched martyrs of horrid combination! — Avert the calamity, and become conscious of your own deplorable situation, with respect to your publication, which is so disproportionate to the task of reformation.

72 **YOUR STABLE DIRECTORY** first roused me from the lethargy of oblivion, divested of every personal paltry idea of ambition:—Whatever might have been my original suspense, I am now justified in making confession, such portion of diffidence is in a great measure obliterated; the fostering hand of public favor will soon remove every doubt, render every consolation; and I must ever consider it one of the most fortunate occurrences of my life, that I am enabled to confute the absurdities of your **PUBLICATION**.

Whenever there is a sentimental digression, it may be thought prudent to advert to the case in question, particularly when every **HORSE** ought to have his proportion of rest; 73 otherwise **THE OWNER** will not be experimentally convinced, that prevention is ever preferable to a cure, by precluding its necessity, and also to restore the horse to his former state of purity or perfection.—This may be effected by restraining applications, with a loose purging Stable, if in **WINTER**; but in *Summer*, it will be quite different, as the Horse must be turned out of Doors.—The following Class of medicine is entitled to preference.

Take rectified spirits of Wine one pint; Camphor two ounces; and the best vinegar half a pint.—Rectified spirits of Wine will dissolve Camphor, but vinegar will not; it is employed externally to strengthen the vessels, and may restrain hemorrhages. It instantly contracts the extremities of the nerves it touches, and deprives them of sense and motion, and when pure, it coagulates all the fluids of animal bodies, except urine:—Camphor is diaphoretic, diuretic, and antispasmodic; and in modern practice, is externally employed
to

to diminish inflammation, disperse tumour, obviate gangrene, and stimulate in local palsy:—Vinegar is cooling, antiseptic, antalkaline, acid, and antipestilential.

74 After the above is well shaken properly and patiently together, let the consummation of that grand specific REST, crown the prelude with success!—BUT IF SUCCESS IS NOT OBTAINED by this CROWN, and of which I entertain a mighty suspicion; an accumulation of a certain degree of lameness, will attend with visible tension, inflammation, and extreme pain, and will require a prescription of the above embrocation, which is a proper preparative to the following stimulative application, as it will infallibly effect a cure from instructions here laid down.

Take of cantharides in powder, three drachms; Oil of olives six ounces; Spirits of turpentine two ounces. Mix the Spanish Flies with the olive oil; then add the turpentine.

The above is borrowed principally from BRACKEN, Vid. page 337—8, Vol. I. Edition the Seventh.—For an explanation of spirits of turpentine, see Windgalls,—for the like of cantharides, and for olive oil, see Spavins.

Lameness is not a disorder of itself, being occasioned by other maladies or accidents, although you Mr. T—— are the only author that have ranked it as such; however, when we come to your supplement, where you speak of punctured tendons, ligamentary lameness, thorn-wounds, lacerated tendons, &c. We shall further, though not from motives of interest, enlarge and expatiate upon lameness and its causes, in order that we may have no reason to repent of
76 YOUR folly or impatience.

G

STRAINS,

S T R A I N S,

ARE a considerable part of your treatise, which is written as usual in your favourite style of frequent repetition, little information, with no explanation, although you are very anxious to obtain judicious approbation in the most minute and explanatory investigation, by a sanction of the multitude whom you challenge to enter into compact, with the standard of YOUR comprehension.

77 But previous to further animadversion, let us stick to a promulgated opinion, which is, that a tendon has lost its elasticity by elongation, which reconciles every palpable absurdity of contradiction.

77 I am not at a loss to conceive that you have a great deal to learn, as TRUTH HERSELF does not seem to have entered into the first principles or rudiments of your education, which I shall make appear by an introduction to an observation, which will prove of greater utility, than to corroborate the propriety of my former remarks.

OSMER in describing the tendons, seems to be as incoherent and unintelligible as YOU, for he contradicts himself in speaking of their ELASTICITY, a word which I do not believe he understood; for he says, at page 12 of his treatise on the diseases of Horses, that as all tendons or muscles are confined to their proper sphere of acting, it is erroneous to suppose, that they are elastic bodies.

77 To understand a subject clearly, it is unavoidably necessary to be informed, but I am suspicious that you have not been properly informed, or at least you have

have given us no *information*, although the poor word has been *jaded* and hacknied without *mercy* or *compassion*, in almost every page of your PUBLICATION.

Strains are *Strains*, whether in the ligamentary parts or in the muscles ; but by your *professional career*, flighty, unconnected, and *multifarious matter*, you seem inclined to make the whole world, at least a MONOCULUS, if not altogether blind.

The language of your System is more similar to that of a Conjuror or Mountebank, than to the rational and classic elegance with which a Surgeon is expected to write.—It is neither founded on *ancient practice or modern instruction*, but is a *relaxation* of unmeaning words *in motion*, which cannot be *preserved in contact*.

78 Farriers and grooms cannot be at a much greater loss for *definitions and explanations* than yourself, for it is evident that you *possess a very barren conception*, with little or no *mental information of the structure of appropriation*.

I agree with you in describing the muscles or tendons (termed sinews by the Farriers) to be strong elastic substances, which possess the properties of extension and contraction ; but *flexibility, elasticity, palpable injury, elastic quality, proportion and cat-gut*, are only a mere jumble of words seemingly culled by an Abecedarian from Johnson's Dictionary, by way of shewing the public what it is to be a dissecting surgical SCHOLARD ?

Learning does not consist in using words where they are not required, and although a number of them similar in signification may be classed one after another, yet such mode of writing displays a species of vanity, ignorance and emptiness.

79 *A circumstance of letting down the back sinews constantly happens on the turf, in running for a heat.—Pray what degree of heat must the horse run for, in order to be let or broken down?—Must it be a milk heat, a blood heat, a gentle, a fever, a violent, a boiling, or a scalding heat?—We are left in the dark with regard to this, which is somewhat contrary to your usual mode of copious explanation.*

79 *This being supposed to have happened, the principal indication of cure will strike the reader, by gradual contraction of the tone of the tendon with instantaneous consideration, which perhaps may prevent consequent inflammation, that frequently attacks the heels of inexperienced riders for not knowing how to fix on their spurs;—however, a proportion of blood adequate to the state and strength of the subject, from a vein as contiguous as consistent, will depend upon the earliest application; then procure a quart of the best white wine vinegar (which is a cooling, antiseptic, vegetable acid) or very strong verjuice (which is extracted from four and unripe grapes) possessing the properties of vinegar, and after making it hot over the fire, or in the OVEN, or by hot water, as there must be some method of making it hot; add two ounces of the extract of Saturn (which is a preparation of lead and vinegar) with which foment the leg every night and morning, bandaging the part with a broad roller of a sufficient length, straining it tolerably firm; and in two nights time the fomentation will radically cure any subject, by the assistance of the following embrocation.*

80 *Take of Barbadoes tar and spirits of turpentine, each two ounces; Opodeldoc four ounces.—Mix well together and keep stopped.*

I should be glad to be informed, as this embrocation is to be kept stopped, what sort of a vessel is most proper to put it into; and since it is not to be opened what is the most proper mode of application?

80. Barbadoes

80 Barbadoes tar is said to be fudorific and discutient: It is of a reddish black colour, and disagreeable smell, but less pungent than the other sorts of tar:—It is seldom to be met with genuine:—Turpentine is a resinous juice, and stands recommended in gleans, the fluor albus; it promotes urine, and proves an excellent detergent, BUT NEITHER IT NOR THE BARBADOS TAR OUGHT TO BE USED IN CASES OF INFLAMMATION, as they frequently occasion it.—Opodeldoc is often used for strains.

You say, that *previous to the use of the above, inflammation may have been productive of swelling.* I say that every degree of inflammation arises from a stagnation or improper circulation of the fluids, and consequently produces according to its irritation, a more or less degree of swelling, which may be destroyed not only in man, but also in the Horse, by proper poultices, particularly if applied in time.—You have ordered besides the oatmeal, a strong decoction of wormwood and camomile; but you have left us in the dark with regard to their virtues; however, as you have borrowed it, we must forgive you, and impute the whole to the want of patience, mercy, and intelligence.

Wormwood externally applied in fomentations, is discutient; and camomile is corroborant, discutient, and antiseptic.—But pray could you not have said all this and more, without jumbling or cramming pages 80 and 81, with *inflammation, decoction, reduction, embrocation, relaxation, application, penetration, attention, exertion, occasion?*—You seem so fond of -ATION, 'tis a pity you did not introduce propagation, multiplication, generation, and fornication.—Then I should have pronounced you a writer without a parallel, either in this Nation, or in the CREATION.

82 *Take the horse up* :—And what then must we do with him besides immediately applying the following liquid blister ?

Take Spanish flies in powder two drachms :—They inflame, excoriate and blister. *Euphorbium* and *Oil of Origanum*, each one drachm :—*Euphorbium* is a gummi-resinous substance of an oriental tree, and of a very corrosive nature ; it is seldom used externally, and is expunged from our practice as to internal use.—*Oil of origanum* has been explained before.

82 You order the above to be deliberately and gradually rubbed over the whole part, for at least half an hour, *letting it be entirely absorbed by the seat of pain*. This is a very grammatical and elegant expression, for a Gentleman within the Circle of the ROYAL HUNT ! It is in the CICERONIAN diction, a ceremonious application, which will be concluded at the expiration of three or four days, except the halter be too short.

You order a pint of common sea-salt to be boiled in a quart of strong vinegar, but we are not informed of the time it must boil, nor when it is to be put into the bottle. You have left us also in the dark (I suppose not being able to tell us) why the vegetable and marine acids should be joined together ; therefore give me leave to ask you, if common sea-salt and vinegar mixed and boiled together, can be termed a *restringent*.—Common sea-salt in small quantities, is justly supposed to be warming, drying, and to promote appetite and digestion : but in larger doses, as half an ounce, it proves cathartic. It is sometimes used to check the operation of emetics, and make them run off by stool ; and as a stimulus in glysters. When mixed with vinegar it destroys its restraining quality, because the marine acid is much stronger than the vegetable.—If you are chymist sufficient to contradict this, I will thank

83 you for your explanation, but not through the rage of FIRING upon every occasion, hurried on by the pecuniary propensity and dictation of the interested Operator, displaying
his

his dexterity in SCRUB, by his newest flourish in operation, in order to turn the HORSE out, and after he is taken up sound, it is not to be attributed to the effect of his FIRE.

83 Nothing can be more ridiculous than the absurd adoption of ancient cold charges, calculated to BRACE THE PARTS, tending much more to firmness of adhesion, than medical relief by power of penetration: For by a moment's consideration, no inherent restraining virtues can be in the possession of doe's hair, armenian bole, rye flour, or oatmeal, more than forming a cement to keep the parts in a certain position, constituting a pompous prelude to the general idea of REST.

I will venture to pronounce a decisive opinion, that you have borrowed and gathered a considerable part of what you have said upon Strains from OSMER, (who wrote infinitely better than YOU,) although you very judiciously condemn him, for averring and setting forth, that a non-elastic body may be elongated; but instead of a busy BEE that would cull and gather the sweets from the flowers and leaves, you have played the part of the driveling DRONE, by creeping over the flowers, and rustling among the leaves, leaving the sweets behind,— See OSMER, pages 70, 71, &c.

84 It is sagacity extraordinary in you to perform such an elaborate preparation, which eminently entitles you to approbation, although the medical substitute forms no other merit as a corroborant, than the mass of composition; therefore, to prevent loss of time and prostitution of judgment, we must adopt methods that will be sanctioned by success, by good observations upon POULTICES.

85. For example, they should never be applied to strains, but in cases of swelling and inflammation. Now as all strains are attended with some degree of swelling or inflammation, I should imagine you meant that Poultices should ALWAYS be applied; because you say, that they only can contribute to the very reverse of the general intention, as when employed to contract they relax the system.

I shall

I shall in a dictatorial manner instruct YOU, almost to a degree of infallibility; if you will condescend to ruminate with me on the great probability of relief, from active liquids having volatile and penetrative powers, which when assisted by industrious application, will rush immediately into contact with the seat of pain; but a compound of mere simples must be too simple to form a good POULTICE, as an elaborate poultice and cataplasm are required; the hair and skin being thick, may prevent an inactive mass taking effect in parts requiring restringents of power and penetration.

- 85 Sudden jerks and short turns, or sinking deep in mud, will most assuredly require forcible exertion to get extricated; and as these strains are seated at the junction of the bones, there cannot be great expectation of relief from the efficacy of external application,
 86 as unluckily the symptomatic inflammation must be washed with the following lotion, by closely remembering the article of Rest, and the great utility of bandage, if it can be conveniently applied.

Take best white wine vinegar one pint; Extract of Saturn two ounces: camphorated spirits of wine four ounces; and rain or pond water one pint.

This is exactly the old prescription for SPAVINS, as may be seen at page 56 of your DIRECTORY, and page 41 of this Letter:—However, to enumerate and particularize all your varieties, would be an endless undertaking without much elucidation.

- 87 Things must depend upon judgment and attention, otherwise every idea will be as lame as the Horse; and as the directions in YOUR book are always doubtful, and seldom decisive; therefore, by the same rule there are different horses lamed in this part, or, strained in that, but will all step, halt, or retreat in the SAME MANNER.

To ascertain to a certainty, requires a judicious investigator, and depends much upon the EYE, but more upon the TOUCH, which must be assisted by observation and experience: And as Operators rarely err in the effect of judgment,
 it

it is requisite that *minute examination* be made with *necessary attention to concurring circumstances*, then He will seldom fail to convey a true state of the case upon almost every investigation.

Previous to final dismissal, it may not be inapplicable to introduce the composition of a BLISTER in great estimation, calculated for those attached to ancient practice, and who indulge doubts of the efficacy of the liquid blister of modern invention or experience.

- 88 *Take Venice turpentine and Quicksilver each an ounce, rub together in a mortar 'till the quicksilver is no longer visible; then add ointment of marsh-mallows and yellow digestive, commonly called basilicon, each two ounces: and lastly of cantharides or Spanish flies, three drachms, of corrosive mercury one drachm, both in fine powder, mixing the whole well together.*

Venice Turpentine is usually thinner than any of the other sorts of turpentine, and is diuretic and detergent.—Quicksilver or crude mercury is heavier than any other fluid, and even than most of the metallic bodies; it is cathartic, diuretic, and penetrating.—Ointment of marsh-mallows is emollient.—Basilicon is detergent, cleansing and incarnating; it is made of wax, resin and hog's lard.—Cantharides are explained in a former part of this work; and corrosive mercury quickly corrodes and destroys all the parts of the body it touches.

The above COMPOSITION OF A BLISTER, I have not the smallest doubt, is of your own INVENTION: Because there is not a single trait of chymical judgment or skill in it, the ingredients of which are as *heterogeneously blended*, as the confused confection of DEMOCRATES. Be kind enough to inform me why corrosive sublimate, Spanish flies and quicksilver should be mixed

H

together?

together? and how would you blend them to prevent two of the ingredients losing their virtues and powers?

A portion of the above is required to take effect; and the remainder to be laid on as thick as judgment may dictate; covering the whole with a piece of lamb-skin or leather of sheep, which with sticking diacylon, and a convenient bandage, using every precaution to prevent, will soon make the Horse by its stimulating powers sensible of his situation,—which is, that of being blistered!

- 89 The operation of FIRING is held in such rage, without any relative consideration to the becoming disfigured, that a single observation is rendered unnecessary, EXCEPTING ONE, which is, a truly disagreeable and distressing alternative! But which is not to take effect, until the more gentle applications have repeatedly failed in effect, amongst which ONE, the following is not to be omitted:

Take oil of wormwood one ounce, amber and organum of each half an ounce; camphorated spirits of wine and opodeldoc, of each four ounces, and let a proportion (according to the injury sustained) be gently rubbed into the part twice a day. Or,

Take extract of Saturn and camphorated spirits of HARTSHORN, each two ounces; opodeldoc four ounces:—Mix the extract and camphorated spirits together; then add the opodeldoc, and use as above, never omitting the use of proper bandage.—

Wormwood is a bitter, and anthelmintic according to some:—Amber is very insignificant:—Oil of organum has been explained, and also camphorated spirits of wine and opodeldoc; but what your motive must be in ordering the extract of lead, which is a very cold chymical preparation, to be mixed with spirits of wine, being FIRY, is more than I can divine.

- 89 To prescribe such a lotion in corroboration of your own remarks upon inconsistency, evinces no communicative description of professional or scientific combination of a prescription.

In

In the beginning of the treatise upon Strains, you COMBAT the promulgated opinion of OSMER, who supposed that a tendon that could be elongated, had no elasticity; but in the conclusion, you request to introduce the JUDICIOUS opinion of Osmer upon the operation of FIRING, which you say you exactly quote from a Treatise of his that never fell into your hands till a few weeks after your *Original Publication* (WHICH ORIGINAL I have not seen) and which you have quoted exactly, according to your own words; but by a reference to Osmer, page 71, &c. it will be found that you have not quoted EXACTLY!—The SCRIBES lost their reputation in the beginning of the first century; but it is very extraordinary that false TRANSCRIBERS are in repute in the present day.

STRAINS are various, and have names according to their situation. The muscular fibres are sometimes overstretched, and frequently the tendinous, or both together. The tendons are sometimes ruptured or broke, as also the muscles.

It is difficult to know the seat of Strains in HORSES, as they themselves cannot point to the affected part; and as they are more subject to these accidents than most other creatures, Farriers ought to be very careful and minute in their examination of such ailments.

The blade-bone of a Horse, is fixed to his body by apposition, and not by joining or articulation. It is laid to the ribs, and fastened by the muscles which lie under and above it; so when the animal happens to receive a blow or strain on the shoulder, the tendons, muscles, &c. are relaxed and stretched at that juncture of time, beyond their natural tone of elasticity; and when that is violent, it is termed a SHOULDER-SPLAIT. A slip, false step, or any undue position of a horse's legs, will strain and weaken the shoulder, by stretching those ligaments; and sometimes the shoulder is affected by a hurt or bruise on the withers; but when the accident proves

not so violent as to shew a looseness and swelling, it is not easily discerned whether the lameness be in the shoulder, or elsewhere. But the infirmity may be distinguished by putting the horse to exercise; because if the strain be in the shoulder, the warmer he grows the less he will halt; and if the wrench be violent, he will be apt to cast his legs outwards, forming a kind of circle as he goes; and by turning him short on his lame side, it tries the muscles the most of any thing: When the strain is in the shoulder, he will endeavour to favor it by setting his foot hardily on the ground.

A SWAYING OF THE BACK, is a pain and weakness in the reins, caused by a fall, and too suddenly endeavouring to rise; the carrying of some heavy burden, or from some violent accident, whereby the horse is sometimes hurt inwardly, and loaded with other disorders.—It is properly speaking a stretching or relaxation of the muscles and ligaments of the spines or processes of the rack-bones, and when the hurt is more inward, the malady must then consist in the over-stretching of the large blood vessels: But at all times there is a sympathy between them.

STRAINS in THE HIPS are to be accounted for in the same manner as those of the back and shoulders, but are not so apt to create a fever as a swayed back. Sometimes the round head of the thigh-bone, is by the violence of the accident, thrust out of its socket, and then a horse is said to be HIP-SHOT, which if not immediately reduced, he will be irrecoverably lame.

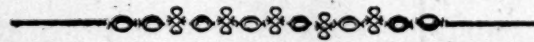
HURTS in the STIFLE, come by a strain or blow on the stifle-bone, which is the knee-pan of a horse. Sometimes the ligaments which cover that bone are so much relaxed, that it becomes loose, moving upwards, downwards, and sideways, by the touch of the hand; and the horse going down-right lame, is said to be STIFLED; but it is a general mistake, to imagine the bone is misplaced, that being impossible, unless the broad ligaments are cut.

A **SINEW-SPRAIN** happens when the master-sinew above the hough, or that above the fetlock, or any of the sinews or ligaments thereabout are strained or relaxed; they cause lameness and very great pain; and when violent, will sometimes bring on a fever, which may terminate in mortification, unless there be good care taken, and timely applications made. If the strain be in the sinew, it will be known by its being swelled, unbent, and relaxed.— Sometimes strains in the sinews of the legs and pasterns, are occasioned by an attaint or over-reach.

A **STRAIN** in the pastern or *coffin-joint*, that has not been discovered in time, will cause such a stiffness, that the Horse will only touch the ground with his toe, and the joint cannot be played with the hand.—If the lameness be in the foot, he will halt most when he is rode.

The **STRING-HALT** is an involuntary and convulsive motion of the muscles, which extend or bend the hough:—When it seizes the outside muscles, the horse straddles and throws his legs outwards; but when the inside muscles are affected, his legs are twitched up towards his belly; sometimes the String-halt is in both legs, and sometimes only in one.—It proceeds from some strain or blow; or from the Horse's being over-heated by a journey, and improperly attended to afterwards, whereby the muscles are rendered stiff by violent heat and sudden cold.

CRACKS, SCRATCHES, THRUSH, and GREASE.



CRACKS and SCRATCHES.

HEELS are so evidently children of the same family, that they put me in mind of the Irishman who got out of bed to put the cloaths upon his own feet, which he discovered to be naked. I do not suppose that **HEELS** can reap any advantage from separation, as it would be very unfair to part them, but every reader well knows without information from me, that they are parted,

91 And without any further information, the general search for cures, has been most plentifully furnished with remedies, and very concise too; as corrosives, detergents, repellents and restringents have been let loose as **FOOD** for the most extensive appetite of experiment; but modern experimental practice abandons beaten, barren trails of alum, lead, vitriol, mercury, and the long list of inveterate poisons, coming immediately to a rational system of common observation founded on long experience.

92 **CRACKS** and **SCRATCHES**, nine out of every ten, as there are only nine and one in every ten, are undoubtedly produced by negligence, and a want of care in the superintendant, or from an acrimonious state of **HIS BLOOD**.

In all stables where the MASTER does not pay a visit, and the carcase is sleek, the feet and heels must take care of themselves.—From this circumstance, bad grooms and bad habits, together with a slovenly condition, complaints originate.

93. *It is likewise remarkable that the modes for a century past, have been in direct opposition to institution, without a single introduction or attempt to co-operate in nature's endeavours.—Instead of corrosive washes, detergent lotions, restraining embrocations, calculated to form rigid escharations, or painful callosities, I shall by way of communication and recommendation, safely, simply, smilingly and effectually, methodize a cure which never has, nor will fail once in twenty years, and which will not fail more than once in twenty-one years !*

In every twenty-four hours of returning from the road, let a lotion of soap and warm water be put into the Cracks and Scratches by making a LATHER, and continuing to rub it in, which will cause the STIFFENED MUCUS to ouze out like camphorated spermaceti ointment.—On the contrary, if by adoption, you perceive the cracks to be too deep and the discharge copious, the smell must undoubtedly be fetid, and will require a rectification until a proportion of blood be taken away according to the directions before given under the head of rubbing in a small quantity of mercurial ointment, instead of spermaceti camphorated, which as much resembles it in quantity and quality, as the administration of two purging BALLS, does the application of the ELABORATE POULTICE.

CRACKS and SCRATCHES in the Heels, bear great affinity to the **GREASE**, and are occasioned from over exercise, heat, filthiness, &c. which on all occasions ought to be avoided as much as possible.

THRUSH.

T H R U S H,

Commonly called the RUNNING THRUSH,

94 *IS a varicous state of the frog, which by perforation, bears the appearance*
of rapid decay and rottenness. To inattention the complaint is generally
 95 *owing, and generally cured; but, instances of such defects are termed natural*
blemishes; however, the mode of treatment will be similar and effective; parti-
cularly as the putrid, ragged, and rotten part must be pared away, and also the hoof
that bears upon the defective. Then the HORSE will gallop swiftly, having
his feet constantly stopped with a composition of the following proportion!

Cow dung seven pounds; vinegar and chamber-lye, of each one pint:—Mix.

Dung is frequently used in the bleaching of linen, as also chamber-lye; and vinegar prevents putrefaction.—The two former of these articles are animal excrements of a corruptible and putrid nature; pray then Mr. T——, why have you ordered them to be mixed with vinegar, which is of an anti-putrid nature?

96 *IF the complaint displays fœtidity;—did you ever imagine the contrary? or*
what do you mean at page 94, when you speak of rapid decay and rottenness,
occasioned by an ichorous discharge? Sure, where there is rottenness and an
ichorous discharge, there must be a fœtid smell, and even a degree of inveteracy,
for which you order the following DIURETIC BALL.

Take white soap 8 ounces; nitre and rosin (in powder) of each three ounces;
camphor and oil of juniper, of each three drachms; form the mass into half a dozen balls,
and let one be given every or every other morning, as the state of the case requires.

Soap

—Soap is composed of expressed vegetable oils, or animal fats, united with alkaline lixivra.—The white soap is made of the finer kinds of olive oil, and is said to dissolve such oily and unctuous matters as it may meet with in the body; to attenuate viscid juices, open obstructions of the viscera, and to deterge all the vessels it passes through:—Nitre, or salt-petre is extracted from certain earths that lie on the sides of hills in Persia, the East Indies, &c.—It is cooling, aperient, and promotes urine. Camphor has been explained; Oil of Juniper is emmenagogue and diuretic.

96 *Should the Horse be visibly foul, he will indicate a tendency to fluctuating humours, from an impurity in the blood, and a course of your physic, preceded by a proportional bleeding, regulating both by directions given under those distinct HEADS.*

These instructions will act as a natural cataplasm, which will be confirmed by turning out to graze, in the promotion of the frog's growth, for an adequate length of time, especially as the softness of the pasture may act to original perfection.

THE THRUSH or FRUSH, is commonly termed the **RUNNING THRUSH**, and is a scabby and ulcerous disposition in the **FRUSH** of a Horse, or a sort of an imposthume that frequently gathers in the Frog, and which sometimes causes it to fall off.—It may be known both by the eye and smell, resembling that of old cheese. It is not dangerous, but very troublesome, causing a continual itching.

G R E A S E.

96 *WE are told by you who have commenced AUTHOR of the latest date, what is almost universally not understood, by those at all unacquainted with the animal æconomy.—This is one reason where a reason is wanting, then I wish you had more frequently used it, for I am sure every page of your DIRECTORY much wants it.—But as many will require more satisfactory*
 97 *information and nicer elucidation, they would be greatly to blame to seek for it in your PUBLICATION.*

Indeed it cannot be supposed that you possess the smallest degree of rational conception, otherwise you would not have snarled at a certain Author, for saying, that the blood is conveyed from the heart to the extremities by the arteries, and returned by the veins; in which latter the blood is to rise in perpendicular columns, to return the circulating fluids from the extremities:—This is very true, and I affirm that (from a partial stagnation of the blood and juices in the finer vessels, where the circulation is most languid: and especially when there is a want of due exercise, and a proper muscular compression upon the vessels, to push forward the returning blood, and propel the inert or half-stagnating fluids through their vessels) SWELLING MUST ENSUE.

I believe it is unnecessary *to dwell any longer* on ascertaining the above to be an incontrovertible fact; for I flatter myself, there are few gifted with even common sense who will deny, that INACTIVITY, SITTING, or LYING too long, does not produce a numbness, swelling, the gout, dropy, or some kind

kind

kind of malady :—'Tis true, you say *it cannot be supposed that any reader possessing the smallest degree of rational conception, will fall into the ridiculous idea,*
 97 *implicitly to believe NATURE has perverted her own laws, by appropriating to certain offices (vessels you ought to have said, as vessels perform offices not offices vessels) vessels inadequate to the purposes for which they were formed.*

Here you reason very superficially, and do not comprehend your subject, which indeed is mostly the case with you.—Nature requires assistance, and EXERCISE is her HANDMAID, which is visibly marked in every creature. What you take to be LAWS of NATURE and MOTION, are only applicable to INACTION.—It would be ridiculous and absurd to advance, that because a child comes weak and helpless into the world, that *Nature* has been unkind to it *and perverted her own laws*, because the infant has not sufficient strength to walk about and protect itself; however, what you have said is equally as erroneous; because no VESSEL either in the extremity or more noble part, will be adequate to perform the offices assigned it, without regular FOOD, EXERCISE, AIR, &c. and hence in a great measure may the causes of many disorders be accounted for.

NATURE has set certain bounds and limits to her children, and when they deviate therefrom, they transgress her laws, and consequently bring punishment upon themselves. You say that NATURE *is totally exculpated from*
 98 *the accusation of insufficiency in the execution of her own laws;—ALLOW IT;* but certain causes amongst which may be ranked INACTION, will make her produce Monsters, Cripples, Dunces and OUT OF THE WAY GENIUSSES, whose *insufficiency in execution and investigation, will never produce less satisfactory reason for the appearance and progress of disease, than the worst one we have yet seen offered to public consideration.*

A partial stagnation of the Blood and other juices in the finer vessels, where the circulation is most languid, may, and does happen, you readily admit, even though you

flatly contradict yourself, and without any just cause have blamed a gentleman, (I mean BARTLETT) who wrote infinitely better on the subject than You Mr. T——.

At page 26 of my first Letter to you, and under the Article BLEEDING, a typographical error has crept in, which you are requested to draw your pen through; for instead of about ONE HALF, *if not more, of what a Horse contains*, it should be *one fourth part, if not more, of what a Horse contains*;— And which I shall endeavour to demonstrate in some future part of this work, in opposition to those who have advanced that a Horse has six times the quantity of blood contained in a man.

I confess that digressions in any work, particularly in DIRECTORIES, are below the dignity of an Author, but as you have so frequently used them, permit me to make use of a palpable one which borders upon an ERROR IN
99 NATURE, *that no human foresight can prevent, or judgment remove*, which is that a HORSE will never be a MARE.

99 I shall claim the privilege of making one observation, in direct opposition to an assertion which you have made (*viz. that the extremities in HORSES, their circumference or capacity of the vessels and force of circulation are the same*) and which I am convinced is false and erroneous; for an ORKNEY poney is neither so large in circumference or capacity of the vessels as a coach-horse which is able to carry you from the first moment of your embarkation into the very idea of implicit obedience to the dictation of those who have preceded you on the subject; although I now come to the declaration of an opinion that will wrest the attention of the reader to the following circumstance worthy of NOTE. That the Horses having the most regular and temperate exercise, food, air, and water, are the very subjects that are in general more severely afflicted with the grease than any other,—I for ONE will attempt to disprove.

The

The above ridiculous falshood is founded on the most glaring ignorance, I was going to say madness. Who in his proper senses would venture to affirm, that a due and regular proportion of the NON-NATURALS could ever be the cause of the GREASE, or any other malady either in man or beast?—Temperate and regular exercise, good food, air and water, often prevent diseases, but I believe no one that ever yet wrote on the nature of disorders, would attempt to advance what you have done.

101 *It is the evident effect of instinctive obstinacy and ignorance, transmitted from sire to son; and is one of the most palpable absurdities that can be produced; for you afterwards allow, that the complaint may proceed from a hidden accumulation of external nastiness, or internal impurity.*

101 *To give the explanation of a disease, we must put on the face of novelty, gravity and consequence, and hint at the impossibility of removing the loads of hair, and quantity of extraneous matter inevitably lodged and continued to accumulate, without a probability of extirpation, unless a BAG-WIG, LARGE RUFFLES are put on, with a large gold-headed cane in your fist.*

101 *I will proceed to hazard an opinion, if not a fact, that perspirable matter makes efforts in proportion for a natural discharge, as it is obstructed by the mass of filth caked upon the surface, but in time it becomes too viscid and substantial to be carried into*
 102 *the circulation. This is palpably the case, and nature is not deficient in her office but upon compulsion, as the constant flow of perspirable obstruction totally overpowers Her, and from accumulation of matter, the vessels certainly become inadequate to the task of conveying treble the proportion they were intended;—but if there was no accumulation, would the vessels become adequate to convey TREBLE?*

102 *The extremities being overloaded and distended by stagnation, become putrid and corrosive, by an acrimonious quality, which perforates the integuments to a degree of fetid ichor, and by a peculiar sharpness in cutaneous oozing, oozes, and by oozing gives callosity*

callosity or hardness to the apertures or edges, constituting a degree of inveteracy, more or less, according to the time of attack.

- 103 *When a disorder once makes its appearance beyond every admission of doubt, it will be favourable or unfavourable; But as it appears very little amongst horses of the first or second class; it does generally happen to HORSES of the third, fourth, fifth or sixth class, and in which class, ASSES are to be ranked, because unluckily they are destined to hard road and harder masters, and fall in for a much greater proportion of work than care:—I avail myself of this additional observation to corroborate my former assertion or opinion, —that complaints frequently originate much more in the ill humours of the groom and master than in the horse.*

I suppose you mean that if GROOMS or MASTERS are infected with diseases, they will naturally infect their HORSES, as the humours of the man and the beast are frequently mixed by carelessness and inattention, instead of contribution to REMEDY or RESTORATION.

- 103 *As there is no rule without exception, so I am willing to admit the exception, and allow that a viscosity or tenacity in the blood of a lusty Groom, may engender foulness in a lean Horse; but a FAT HORSE is in no danger of being infected, if the MASTER does not come into the stable to contribute a little towards it:—Impurities may be also produced by omitting to purify, or acrimony on the one part, may produce a sluggish cohesion on the other.*

How can an impurity be produced by omitting to purify?— If there is nothing to purify, there is no impurity, and if we purify, it is certain that

that there is some kind of impurity already lodged or produced.— There is a cause that produces impurity, but surely, a thing cannot be produced by omission, although it may be encreased:— or in other words, How can dissection be produced by omitting to dissect, if there is nothing to dissect, there can be no dissection, and if we dissect, it is certain, there is some kind of body to dissect. There is a cause for dissection, but surely a body cannot be dissected by omission, for in such case, you know that a young Lamb or Pig might greatly encrease for want of dissection; as the one might become a HOG, and the other a SHEEP.

Collections of matter are frequently formed, large dung-hills are to be seen in the Country, and heaps upon heaps of rubbish are lying in the environs of the Metropolis, but pray what have the efforts of nature to do with these heaps, when she can disburthen herself of the morbid affection, by most wisely preserving the vital principle of action to bear the operation.

104 *Thus much produced, we shall now inculcate the doctrine of disease, contrary to the custom of a CENTURY PAST, by a rational, but exceptionable Mode. Let your quantity of blood be proportioned to the size, state, and strength of your HORSE, MARE, or ASS, and let an examination be made of its state, and proceed accordingly. If you find the blood coagulated with a proportion of serum, or gelatinized (gelatinous you mean) matter, upon the surface, destroy tenacity and adhesion from the office of circulation, as signs of inveteracy and which will render the HORSE, MARE, or ASS, remarkably foul, or out of condition. But if we could by any probable mode, submit to rapid signs of inveteracy, we ought then indeed to submit also to the mildest method of cure, as very few, if any disorders are accompanied with rapid signs of inveteracy in their earliest (I IMAGINE YOU MEAN MORE EARLY) stage.*

105 *Soft water made warm and well impregnated with soap, will form a SUBSTANTIAL LATHER (which every one that washes his hands well, is convinced of) with which every defective or offensive SPOT, whither upon the EYE, NOSE, LIP, MOUTH or TONGUE, should be most patiently rubbed in, after clearing the surface: THEN wipe the PARTS gently dry, with a linen cloth, as a dish-clout would not be proper, with the following lotion.*

Take tincture of Myrrh and camphorated spirits of wine, each one ounce; of best white wine vinegar and spring water, each two ounces.—Mix together, and when WELL DRIED, slightly rub over the following ointment:

105 *Take of white diachylon plaister three ounces, olive oil four ounces, melt together over the fire, or in the SUN, if the fire cannot be made sufficiently hot;—Then keep stirring till cold, and mix upon a HOT STONE with three drachms of the sugar of lead, which when powdered, is many degrees colder than clay or stone.*

Diachylon is a well known salve, olive oil has been explained, and salt or sugar of lead, is made from cerusse with distilled vinegar and water. It is more efficacious than the simple extract.

The above ointment, of which you order a small quantity, to be *slightly rubbed over*, after the lotion just described has been used, is not your own, as may be seen at page 221 of Bartlett. The DIURETIC BALL mentioned at page 95 of your DIRECTORY is also taken from Bartlett upon Grease, page 282, and your famous lotion at page 105 is only his drying water, as may be seen at page 280 of his Farrier's Practical Treatise.

Now if you (or YOUR FRIENDS I should have said, for without a disputation) have the highest veneration, for your own unparalleled
erudition

erudition will compare the DIRECTORY, pages 95, 105, 106, 109, &c. with Bartlett, pages 280, 281, 282, &c. you and they may be soon convinced that there is a very insignificant difference between his prescriptions and yours, and which on your side, is so far from improvement, that you have not only done him injustice, but also spoiled the recipe's you would wish to make your own by adoption, and alteration, and I should suppose, from a motive of self-sufficiency, you would rather be deemed excentric than to allow the smallest share of merit to any other writer, though ever so deserving it.

Let a diuretic ball be given every other morning for a course of one dozen:— But this course of one dozen must be preceded by two dozes of physic, if the horse is grossly out of condition in habit, and foul in excrement.

DIURETIC BALLS.

106 Take of castile, or best Bristol soap, twelve ounces; yellow rosin and nitre (in powder) each eight ounces; camphor (in powder) one ounce; oil of juniper six drachms;—Mix with as much syrup or honey as required, and divide into twelve balls, and roll up in liquorice or aniseed powder.—These ingredients are already explained.

I need not tell you, I suppose, that the above DIURETIC BALL is borrowed from Bartlett, page 282, and is nearly the same with your own before given, page 95, and I must further inform you that the variations you have made are not for the better.

If diseases farther advance they display a palpable inveteracy, by considerably enlarging the parts, which both being fetid and copious in quantity (I mean the blood as before described)

described) you must bleed again and again in four or five days, giving again and again in two days or three days at most, one of the purging balls, with an addition of *mercurius dulcis* two drachms; working it off as before described, using every precaution to prevent cold, at the expiration of four or five clear days; THEN repeat by making a repetition of the purging ball by addition, deduction, or diminution, as adding, deducting or diminishing is changing the number, so as to render it effectual in respect to strength. —The curious eloquence of your diction is here SO ELEGANT that I have indulged myself with the CACÆTHES scribendi of almost a literal transcript!

107 In three days after the setting of which second dose begin a course of the ABOVE DIURETIC BALLS, and let one be given every morning for a fortnight for three weeks or a month, which is equally the same, as weeks or fortnights make months, and consequently there can be no difference in the CALCULATION.

I should esteem it a particular favour if you would inform me, what kind of ENGLISH county dialect,—AFTER THE SETTING OF WHICH SECOND DOSE BEGIN A COURSE, IS?—Sure it cannot be BERKSHIRE, and I am sure it is not SCOTCH, except you wash it with a solution of soap and warm water regularly and substantially, then indeed such language may be repeated twice every day; and the parts may be fomented after each washing with flannels dipt in a hot decoction of CHAMOMILE, WORMWOOD, MARSH-MALLOWS AND ROSEMARY, for a quarter of an hour or more; and it may be followed up, if necessary, by the application of a POULTICE prepared (as no poultice ever was a poultice without preparation) with (you ought to have said OF) equal parts of rye-meal and oatmeal (the first should be last and the last first, because it is used in the North) with garlic and white lily root, of each two ounces.

GARLIC

GARLIC is a root of the bulbous kind:—It warms and stimulates the solids, and is useful in cold leucophlegmatic habits, proving a powerful expectorant, diuretic, and even sudorific, if the patient be kept warm.—**WHITE LILY ROOT** is said to be useful in alvine fluxes, gleets, &c.

The above ingredients *must be both beat to a paste, and all mixed together to a proper consistence with a decoction prepared by fomentation, by stirring in a quarter of a pound of lard.*

- .108. After this you say *on the contrary*, (which you ought to have said sometime since) *that if the circumstances should not be so severe, the subject may be poulticed plentifully with ointment, after the fomentation, when rubbed dry; or in worse cases.*

Take ointment of elder, four ounces; camphire, powdered by molification with a little olive oil, six drachms; of liquid laudanum and saturn each two drachms; mix well together, and keep close stopped for use, as while they are stopped they cannot be of any use.

Elder ointment is said to be cooling:—Liquid Laudanum is anodyne and somnoric;—Camphire has been explained, but pray, why have you ordered extract of saturn to be mixed with liquid laudanum and camphire?—This prescription may be your own, but even granting that, I am sure there is a small proportion of chymical judgment or medical invention in it, as the extract of lead will destroy the virtues and powers of the laudanum.

108 When a case is *obstinate* there will be no signs of submission or reduction, therefore, let longitudinal and transverse scarifications be made superficially, proportioned to the distention of the inveteracy of appearance, so as to ensure a plentiful discharge of sanies; then apply the following poultice:

Take of coarse brown bread and boiled turnips, equal parts, mash well over the fire; adding a sufficient quantity of stale strong beer to give it a consistence, and stir in of best flour of mustard one ounce, turpentine two ounces, linseed powder three ounces, and lard six ounces, or sufficient to keep it from getting too stiff, as then it would be difficult to bend it.

This poultice is not very ELABORATE, although it is borrowed from Bartlett, as was observed before.—Vid. page 280 of this work.

It must be continued night and morning, till change in appearance renders variation in treatment necessary. And every useful purgative or diuretic must be regulated by the face of the disease, which without discretion must gaze on every farrier, groom, or prescriber, who may irrationally appear inapplicable to the changes of their subject.—Proportion of motion and exercise (as motion is no EXERCISE) should be adopted to the circumstances of nature and disease; but gradual and voluntary motion is always required, however mild or severe the disease may have been, because fætidity will totally subside whenever the swelling is subdued, or the cure compleated.—All this may be done and 110 more with it, by washing and occasionally moistening (as it is impossible to wash without moistening) with a small quantity of ointment.

GREASE originates in a palpable combination of nastiness, and is strengthened by internal blood; therefore, with the various methods of treatment adapted

to each distinct stage of disease, let us revert to the same disease formed only by a different, but still the same cause which is nothing but an acrimonious state or an hereditary retention or taint from fire to dame.

- 110 The first step to cure must be the same step with the other step, and which step must be a very short step, performed by bleeding to a proper quantity according to the state of your subject; for should he chance to take a hop or a skip, it will greatly retard his cure; particularly if he is full of flesh, high in condition, and had no forced evacuations, sufficient in proportion to the powerful symptoms of obstinacy threatened:—Then give him a couple of the following purging balls, six days apart, that is part six days into a couple, and then you will have three days on each side, which will strictly be regulated by the directions given under the 111 article of purgation, page 35 of your DIRECTORY.

Take of succotrine aloes nine drachms; Æthiop's mineral half an ounce; castile soap and jalap of each two drachms; ginger one Drachm; oil of juniper forty drops; syrup of buckthorn sufficient to make a ball.

Aloes have been already explained;—Æthiop's mineral is prepared from quicksilver and sulphur;—and as the sulphur in a great measure destroys the powers of the mercury I am convinced this medicine is of very little use:—Ginger, oil of juniper, and syrup of buckthorn have been taken notice of before.

If this proportion does not purge, give a larger proportion every morning for fifteen days, three weeks or a month, as the urgency and mildness of the case may require.

112 *Take of antimony finely levigated, sulphur, nitre, and Æthiop's mineral, each three ounces;—(It is a great pity you did not introduce charcoal, then we should have had GUN-POWDER; however, if you will hold the ingredients in an iron vessel over the fire for a short time, the explosion will sweep your chimney much better than the firing of a pistol, or even a musket thro' it)—Castile soap, ten ounces, oil of juniper, three drachms; syrup of honey (which I suppose is honey, sugar and water mixed, as it is not mentioned in the MATERIA MEDICA) sufficient to form the mass, which divide into a dozen balls, rolling them in liquorice or aniseed powder.*

I must to your CONSOLATION inform you, that the above prescription is very insignificant, as the sulphur destroys the powers, and virtues of the antimony and the Æthiop's mineral, the latter of which is good for little, as I said before.

It appears that you are totally unacquainted with the properties of the SULPHUR; therefore, permit a NORTH - BRITON to explain them to you, as every body knows that he understands them, or at least ought so to do, having frequent use for this super-excellent mineral.

SULPHUR is a yellow substance of the mineral kingdom, fusible in a small degree of heat, totally volatile in a stronger, readily inflammable, burning with a blue flame, which is accompanied with a suffocating, acid fume.—It dissolves in alkaline liquors, and in oils; but not in acids, water, or vinous spirits.—It loosens the belly, and promotes insensible perspiration, passing quickly through the whole habit, and manifestly transpires through the pores of the skin, which may be known by shaking the linen of the person who uses it, over the fire, and also from silver being stained in the pocket of a blackish colour.—It is a celebrated remedy against cutaneous diseases,
both

both given internally and externally applied. It has also been recommended in coughs, asthma, and other disorders of the breast and lungs; and particularly in catarrhs of the chronic kind.—Mercury is rendered by the admixture of the concrete sulphur, in a great measure inactive, and the antimonial regulus nearly the same:—Now the reason why mercury and antimony act more violently upon the animal œconomy after being precipitated or calcined, arises from their being separated from the sulphurous particles by ignition, and combined with the muriatic or nitrous acids.

The chymical analysis of sulphur is very difficult, its principles being so volatile, consisting of an acid salt, an earth, an oily bituminous and inflammable matter, and usually a little metal or kind of copper, which may be known by the following, and other experiments.

Take the pure acid salt of sulphur, with an equal quantity of the oily matter, and earthy alkali, to which add a little oil of tartar, conducting the operation according to the rules of art, and the re-composition will be found equal to sulphur.

The oil of vitriol may be substituted for the acid salt, and the oil of turpentine for the inflammable part; or fixed salts, as they are acids in absorbed earths, may serve for two principles at once, as nothing more than an inflammable oil is required to make sulphur.

Thus have I given you a short description of one of the most extraordinary minerals with which we are acquainted; therefore, I beg that you will give me your reasons for adding sulphur to antimony, Æthiop's mineral and nitre, which in my opinion are not equal to treacle and brimstone.

112 You have so fully explained every method of cure, and the properties and virtues of medicines, that the reader can be at no loss for farther instructions under his head, having a variety of prescriptions IN HIS PILLOW, which he may pull out, if he will BUT exert himself industriously on the occasion.—And this is a fact remaining long uncorrected which proves remarkably foul and out of condition, occasioning a great portion of trouble, which to obviate you will find hints in the appendix of the DIRECTORY, as there are no HINTS worth notice in the book itself) respecting the management of draught-horses, as just taken into consideration and properly attended to; many of whom, by neglect and injudicious treatment, are doomed to perpetual punishment, banishment and imprisonment, and relinquished as incurable, by reducing the number constantly labouring under THESE HARDSHIPS.

The GREASE takes its name from the belief which some people have of Horses' grease being melted, after hard riding, as the colour of the matter issuing from the chinks and sores in those parts when they break, somewhat resembles grease. It has in common with other swellings, either a viscidness and thickness of the juices, or a relaxation of the vessels in which these juices flow, or both.—It is a swelling and gourdinness of the legs of a horse, which are composed of nerves, sinews, &c. so very small, and laid close together, that the fluids contained in them may very easily be obstructed.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.